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TODAYS TOKEN page 24

16 PAGES OF SPORT
Stalemate for Man Utd and Chelsea
report page 25

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Hague launches 'kitchen table' Toryism

By TIM HAMES

IN A striking shift of thinking, William Hague has ordered all members of his Shadow Cabinet to adopt a new political approach known as "kitchen table conservatism".

The essence of the Tory initiative will be a major change in political and presentational emphasis. The leadership will now focus on core issues known to be of central importance to the electorate and address those subjects in similarly direct language.

Shadow Cabinet members have been told that they must stop attempting to defend the last Conservative administration, be more willing to admit that mistakes were made under Margaret Thatcher and John Major, and then move on to discuss new Conservative ideas.

The new strategy has seven "campaigning criteria". These are: the use of language that resonates with voters; a willingness to listen; an emphasis on the future not the past; a readiness to concede past failings and to move on; being forthright as well as against them; maintaining a sense of proportion while criticising the Government; and the importance of absolute integrity.

Mr Hague wants the Tories to escape the comparison with their own past and to refocus the contrast on new Labour. Opinion poll evidence indicates that the electorate still sees the current Shadow Cabinet more as representatives of the last Tory regime than an alternative Government.

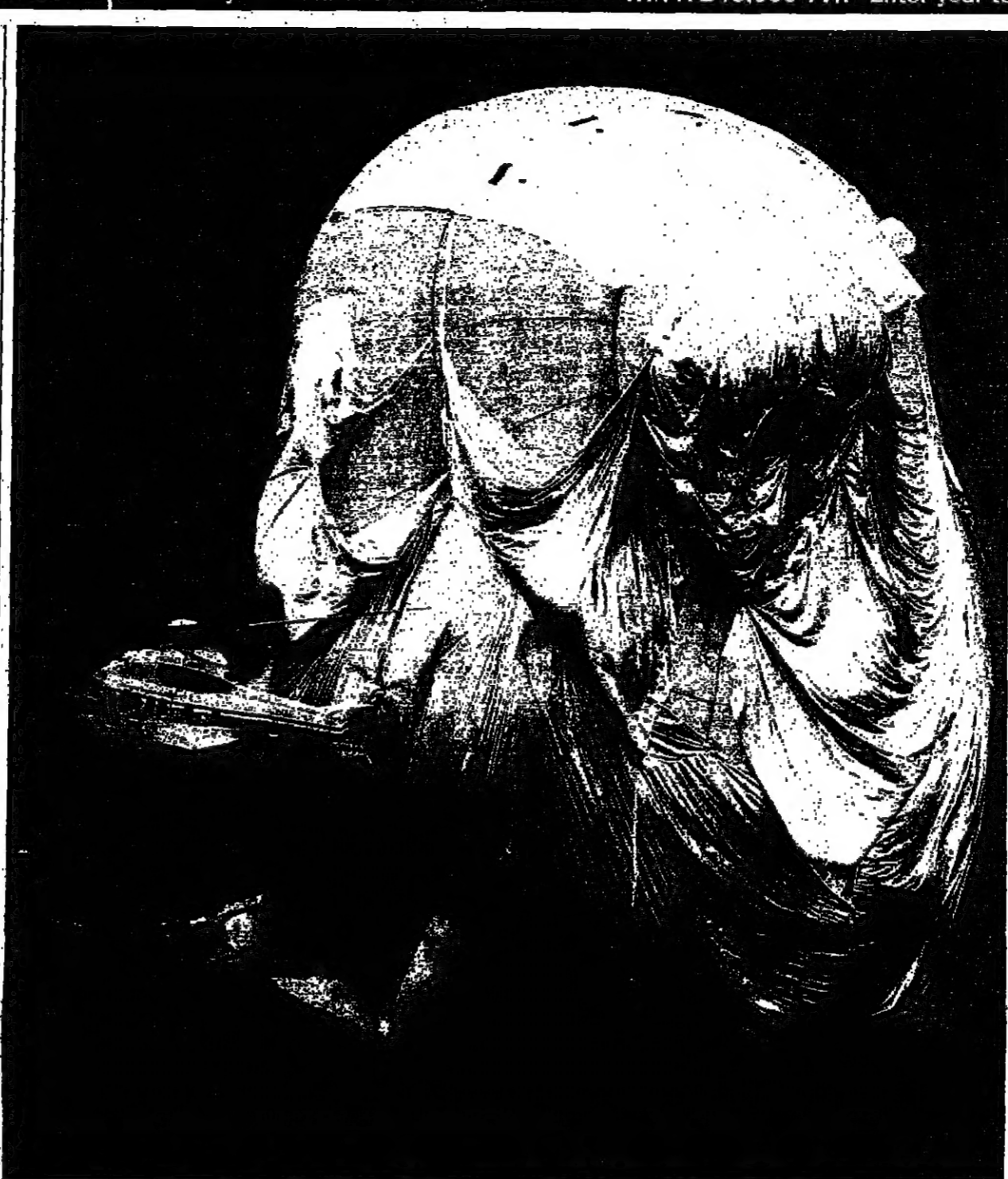
The phrase "kitchen table" is drawn from the political vocabulary of the United States and is the rough equivalent of "bread and butter" issues. The label reflects the American influence of many Conservative Central office figures and was perhaps re-inforced by Mr Hague's own visit to the US last month.

The "kitchen table" emphasis also reflects Mr Hague's belief that under Margaret Thatcher, and especially John Major, Conservatives became obsessed with economics and abstract economic language of "markets". In education and the NHS that meant little to ordinary voters, and, in so far as it meant anything, sounded like the dictionary of the bureaucratic manager.

The shift by the Conservatives is a tacit recognition that under New Labour the old distinctions between "Left" and "Right" have become blurred. Mr Blair's emphasis on "what matters is what works" is believed to have had a powerful impact on middle-of-the-road voters.

Mr Hague will, therefore, put a lot more emphasis on devising and promoting practical alternatives to Labour's "early pledges" on class sizes and NHS waiting lists.

This will be seen as a shift to the political centre even though many of the individual programmes that the Tories might propose could be considered radical and "right wing". It also reflects the Tory leader's desire to promote decentralisation of key services. — In *Continued on Page 2, col 5*



A Japanese helicopter reaches the British balloon, above, while Colin Prescott and Andy Elson, below, describe their descent

Longest balloon trip ends in sea

By SUSIE STERNER AND ROBERT WHYMANT

THE world's longest balloon journey came to an abrupt end yesterday when the all-British Cable & Wireless balloon team were forced to ditch into the ocean off the coast of Japan.

Last night the remaining round-the-world challenger — the Breitling Orbiter 3 — was continuing on its course over the Middle East, while attempts were under way to retrieve the 200 ft Cable & Wireless balloon from the Pacific.

Pilots Andy Elson, 45, of Wells, Somerset, and Colin Prescott, 48, of Stockbridge, Hampshire, leapt into water from their floating capsule at 4am yesterday. The balloon had been forced down by driving snow and the team had to be plucked to safety by a Japanese military helicopter.

Despite failure in the last great aviation challenge, the pair achieved a new endurance record for the longest hot air balloon flight, previously set at ten days.

Mr Prescott and Mr Elson managed 18 days in the air, completing 12,000 miles of the 18,000-mile round trip — 3,000 miles short of American Steve Fossett's distance record.

Speaking from an air base in Hamamatsu, Japan, yesterday, Mr Prescott told how he and Mr Elson had navigated down to about 100 ft above water level as a storm whipped up around them.

"Andy did a fantastic job of the landing," said Mr Prescott. "We got it down very gently, which was a relief because it could have been nasty."

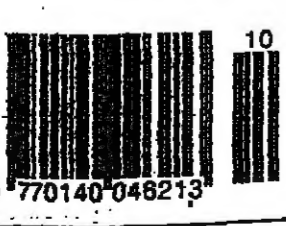
While Mr Prescott and Mr Elson now face the sad task of sifting through the wreckage of their attempt, one woman expressed her relief.

Mr Elson's mother, Phyllis, said that said she was disappointed for her son but added: "I hope he doesn't try it again."



TV & RADIO	46, 47
WEATHER	24
CROSSWORDS	24, 48
LETTERS	21
OBITUARIES	23
LORD SHORE	20
ARTS	18, 19
CHESS & BRIDGE	38
COURT & SOCIAL	22
LAW REPORT	41
FASHION	16, 17
BUSINESS	42-46

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United mourn

MANCHESTER United football club were in mourning yesterday for Dennis Viollet, their former captain and most prolific championship goal scorer, who died at his home in Florida of a brain tumour, aged 65.

A survivor of the Munich air disaster in February 1958, Viollet set Manchester United's championship goal-scoring record, with 32 goals in the 1959-60 season.

Viollet was capped three times for England. In 291

Southgate gets £800,000 pay-off

Sir Colin Southgate, chairman of the Royal Opera House, is to receive £800,000 from EMI, the music publishing and recording group, for standing down as his chairman with a year of his contract to run.

Newcastle win

Newcastle won through to the FA Cup semi-finals beating Everton 4-1. The holders, Arsenal, will meet Chelsea or Manchester United. Pages 25, 29

Heroic bobby in New York shoot-out

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A BRITISH policeman on holiday in America became the hero of a New York crime drama at the weekend when he dodged a bullet to catch two bandits in central Manhattan.

Howard Groves, 41, a deputy inspector in the Metropolitan Police, intervened when he and his girlfriend, Rachel Double, left their hotel on Saturday morning.

The couple saw the two men trying to rob a worker opening a shop. They pistol-whipped their victim but failed to get any cash. "I felt I had to do something," Inspector Groves told a local newspaper. "I couldn't just walk away."

As the gunmen tried to make their escape, Inspector Groves sent Miss Double back into the hotel for help while he and the hotel clerk followed the two. The robbers spotted the Briton, who is 6ft 2in, and the clerk on their tail and one of them fired a shot.

"As soon as I saw the flash, I saw the cop down on the floor," the hotel clerk said. "That's when I thought I better get down too."

As police began to arrive, Inspector Groves flagged down a squad car, flashed his Metropolitan Police identification card and joined the search.

"It made me think we were in an American movie," he said. "There was a sea of policemen, and they were all heavily armed."

The police caught up with the suspects at a subway station where one of them fled on to the tracks. But Inspector Groves suddenly found himself confronted by the other and wrestled him to the ground, grabbing a 9mm pistol from the man's belt.

Cedric Reid, 36, was arrested and charged with attempted robbery, assault and weapons possession.

Inspector Groves confessed that he was a bit shocked by the sudden call to duty. "I've never been fired at," he said.

Film director Stanley Kubrick dies aged 70

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

STANLEY KUBRICK, the reclusive and obsessive director behind 2001: A Space Odyssey and A Clockwork Orange, died yesterday at his home in Herefordshire. He was 70.

A doctor was called to Childwickbury Manor, a sprawling estate near St Albans, where Mr Kubrick lived with his wife Christiane. Police said they were not treating the death as suspicious.

The director, who exhausted many actors and film-makers with his exacting standards — it was not uncommon for him to demand 50 takes from his actors, had been working on an erotic thriller, *Eyes Wide Shut*, starring Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise, at London's Pinewood studios. The film is due to be released in July.

A spokesman for the family said: "Stanley Kubrick died in the early hours of the morning. There will be no further comment at this time." Last night Ms Kidman and Mr Cruise released a statement, which said: "He was like a family to us and we are in shock and devastated."

Mr Kubrick, who shunned the glamorous life of Hollywood and rarely left his home, was regarded as a phenomenon in modern cinema; in 31 years he produced ten feature films that earned eight Oscars and 14 nominations. His films included *Lolita*, *Dr Strangelove*, *Spartacus* and *Full Metal Jacket*.

His death could raise the question of whether *A Clockwork Orange*, the screen adaptation of Anthony Burgess's bleak and violent novel, is released in Britain again. In 1973 Mr Kubrick withdrew the film from circulation in Britain after it provoked copycat attacks. However, this may now be reviewed.

Mr Kubrick first established himself as one of America's top directors in 1957 with *Paths of Glory*, a film about the French Army during the First World War.

Barry Norman, the film critic, said last night: "This has come as a real shock, especially because Mr Kubrick has only just finished his new film. There was no suggestion that there was anything awry. He was an extraordinary filmmaker. He was incredibly meticulous in all his films, which took him an average of two to three years to make."

He added: "I knew him a little. He was a very reclusive man and refused to fly. That's why his films were made in Britain — even *Full Metal Jacket*, set in Vietnam, was filmed in this country. He was a great Anglophile and lived here since the 1960s."

Michael Winner, the director, said Mr Kubrick was a recluse because he "believed the world outside was really like in *A Clockwork Orange*. He saw no reason to leave the house." Mr Winner said he had known Mr Kubrick for 30 years and had never known him to suffer ill health.

Sadly, he had been about to invite Mr Kubrick to receive this year's lifetime achievement award from the Directors' Guild of Great Britain. "The loss to the world of cinema is incalculable," Mr Winner said. "He will be remembered as one of the greatest geniuses since cinema evolved."

Mark Baty, spokesman for the British Film Institute, said: "This is a huge loss to the film-making community. He was one of the landmark directors of the century who helped to define cinema."

Despite his quality, there are actors who loathe him. John Baxter, his biographer, said of Mr Kubrick: "Actors are drawn to him because of his undoubted skills and mystique, but they only work for him once."

Kirk Douglas who worked with him on *Spartacus* called him a "cold bastard". Harvey Keitel walked out of production on *Eyes Wide Shut*, citing "artistic differences".

Cinematic odyssey, Page 3
Obituary, page 23



Kubrick won eight Oscars from ten feature films

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SKY NEWS AT TEN

IMF praises Brown's 'skilful' economic dexterity

Roland Watson and Graham Searjeant on the annual health check of the economy

GORDON BROWN received a pre-Budget fillip yesterday when the International Monetary Fund praised his "skilful management" of the economy and predicted that Britain would emerge virtually unscathed from a "short-lived" downturn.

The IMF, the world's economic watchdog, said the Chancellor's policy of setting clear public targets for the economy had helped the UK keep a lid on inflation while sustaining growth. It was an approach which "could offer useful lessons for other advanced and developing

countries", said the Washington-based body.

In its annual health check on the UK economy, the IMF predicted that growth in 1999 would dip to 0.8 per cent, slightly below Mr Brown's one per cent target, with unemployment rising to five per cent from 4.7 per cent.

But IMF officials expect inflation to hit the Chancellor's 2.5 per cent target, down from 2.6 per cent.

They also see a clear case for the Bank of England resuming its recent run of interest rate cuts from the current 5.5 per cent, "to avoid an excessive weakening of economic activity".

Although the IMF concedes that momentum will slow this year, its report states: "The soundness of past policies has left fiscal and especially monetary policies well placed to deal promptly and decisively with

developments." Mr Brown is expected to use the IMF report as evidence that an imminent soft landing will allow him to launch a "new economic platform" for the UK.

In a package billed as a Budget for "jobs, enterprise and the family", the Chancellor is expected to unveil a range of tax cuts for both the unemployed and low paid, as well as for wealthy entrepreneurs, especially in the high-tech sector.

Mr Brown is expected to grab headlines by setting a date for the introduction of his much-trailed 10p starting rate of tax, designed to help the low-paid. He also has in his sights the phased abolition of mortgage tax relief, Miras, and the taxing of child benefit for higher earners.

Mr Brown was still finalising the details yesterday, but the Budget's "green" measures were believed to

include a cut in road tax of up to £50 for small, fuel-efficient cars and a paving of the way for a carbon tax on industry.

The Chancellor can afford to offer concessions to favoured groups while still appearing responsible because his revenue has been unexpectedly buoyant and because he is already committed to heavy real increases in duty on petrol and tobacco over and above adjustments for inflation.

Leading article, page 21

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nott leads Hague's euro fight

Sir John Nott, the Defence Secretary during the Falklands war, has been recruited by William Hague to marshal the case for rejecting the euro.

Sir John will chair the Conservatives' commission charged with presenting the positive case for the UK to remain outside the single currency. Mr Hague will formally introduce Sir John when at the launch today of the commission, which will be asked to examine the potential constitutional and economic opportunities open to the country outside the euro zone.

The move reflects caution in Tory high command that the party's case against the euro will be weakened if it relies solely on negative arguments.

Heads cautious on A-level reform

Schools should refuse to implement A-level reforms until universities show that they will award degree places on the basis of the new curriculum, head teachers are to be told. Proposals are being finalised for students to take five subjects in their first year in the sixth-form, but the Secondary Heads Association says schools cannot afford to offer five per pupil, and it queries whether the new system will be of sufficient depth.

Air hostess takes legal action

An air hostess who was slashed with a vodka bottle by a passenger is taking legal action against her former employer. Fauna Weir has joined a rival airline since the attack on an Air Tours charter last October, after she asked a man to stop smoking. The case is believed to centre on Miss Weir's sick leave and her employment with the airline after the incident. Air Tours declined to comment on the legal action.

Soldiers held over Nazi link

Two soldiers, one from The Parachute Regiment, who are suspected of links to the violent neo-Nazi group Combat 18, were released on bail after being questioned by police and military investigators. Fourteen homes were raided across the country as part of a year-long investigation by police. Scotland Yard said the searches were carried out under a section of the Public Order Act 1986 that covers acts intended to cause race hate.

Man's best friend visits Ernie Wise

The comedian Ernie Wise, 73, has been reunited with his dog Molly, a ten-year-old Scottie, in England after being discharged from hospital in Florida. Doreen Wise, his wife, said from the couple's home in Maldenhead, Berkshire, that he was on the mend after his return in an air ambulance on Wednesday. Mr Wise underwent a triple heart bypass operation in a Fort Lauderdale hospital in January.

Ministers plan to shake up divorce laws

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are to go ahead with plans to introduce compulsory "information meetings" for people intending divorce after research found that the controversial sessions could save thousands of marriages.

The Lord Chancellor is expected to announce within weeks a date next year for implementing the main elements of the Family Law Act 1996, which will scrap the "quickie" divorce and bring in a one-year "cooling off" period.

There has been widespread debate over the feasibility of the compulsory meetings, which will offer couples marriage guidance as well as advice on how to proceed with a divorce. But three substantial sets of research findings show that they can help save marriages.

The findings, drawn from 14 pilot projects conducted over the past two years, show that nearly one in five people take up the offer of a meeting with a marriage counsellor, which is free to those who qualify under a means test. Sixty per cent of those decided to go ahead with counselling, half of them with their partners.

The research adds credibility to the main aim of the legislation as promoted by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the pre-

vious Lord Chancellor, which is to "save saveable marriages".

The pilot projects also found that, despite initial scepticism about the benefit of the meetings, more than 90 per cent of people said that they were useful. One researcher said: "We have enough evidence to say that these individual meetings can work, people do appreciate them. So the Government could go ahead and after that decide on whether fine-tuning is needed."

Under the Family Law Act, couples will have to attend an information meeting at least three months before they start divorce proceedings.

Officials have been studying whether they could amend the Act to allow for group meetings, or to tailor the meetings to those who wanted solely counselling or information, but ministers are believed to have decided that they do not want to delay the implementation of the act any further.

One Government official said: "If we start to introduce more and more changes... by the time it would take to do this, there is an argument that it is probably not worth doing."

The pilot projects have been run by organizations such as Relate or by family mediation

and marriage guidance groups. Their findings are being analysed by Professor Jan Walker at Newcastle University's Centre for Family Studies, and will be published this summer. Another study is investigating the cost of providing the information meetings, but no figures are available so far.

The research has also gone to the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Board on Family Law under Sir Thomas Boyd-Carpenter, which has been set up to oversee implementation of the Act.

The implementation of the Family Law Act amounts to the biggest shake-up of divorce law in decades. A main aim is to encourage couples to settle disputes over children and finances amicably and outside the courts.

Divorce disputes last year cost taxpayers £61 million in legal aid, and the Act will encourage greater use of mediation, which will be free for couples who qualify for legal aid. The Act will also scrap the present "fault"-based divorce laws and bring in a 12-month "cooling off" period for couples — 18 months for those with children.

In general divorces will not be granted until arrangements about children and finances have been settled.



Ready for a tour of Britain: Monica Lewinsky arriving at Heathrow Airport yesterday

Lewinsky fails to win friends

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

AS Monica Lewinsky embarks on a British charm offensive today, she can only hope she has more success rehabilitating her image in Essex and Sheffield than she has managed at home.

The former White House trainee flew into London last night ready to begin a lengthy book-signing tour with an appearance at Harrods. In America, opinion polls showed that viewers were unimpressed by the story she told in her television interview with Barbara Walters, intended as the chief gamble in a campaign

to win sympathy and understanding. But a poll published in *Time* today shows that 72 per cent of those interviewed have an unfavourable impression of her, a negligible drop from the 78 per cent who had such a view of her back in September when the Starr Report was published. Only 15 per cent think well of her and 74 per cent think she is enjoying the attention of her media blitz. A *Newsweek* poll showed that her image had improved with 8 per cent of Americans.

Whether or not she is liked in Britain, she will be hard to avoid. Her 18-day tour will take her to 19 bookshops from Bristol to Edinburgh including the Lakeside shop-

ping centre at Thurrock, Essex, to promote Andrew Morton's *Monica's Story*.

The first excerpts were published yesterday of a book by George Stephanopoulos, Mr Clinton's former aide, about his time in the White House. "If I knew everything then that I know now, I wouldn't have worked for him," he said in an interview. "He has accomplished more than I ever thought humanly possible. But he lost the battle with himself, tarnished his presidency and all of us associated with it."

□ Hillary Clinton will not accompany the President on a goodwill tour of Central America this week because of a recurring back injury.

Doctors' mistakes cost £67m

By IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DAMAGES totalling £67 million were paid to patients last year for mistakes or negligence by doctors insured through the Medical Defence Union, which represents about half of the 130,000 registered practitioners in Britain.

In a review published today, the MDU says doctors are practising in an increasingly litigious environment and that claims against them have been rising at 15 per cent a year.

"We see no evidence of a fall in clinical standards," the report says. "Instead we see common themes arising out of claims. These are related to failures in procedures and systems such as poor clinical records, training and supervision issues and failures in using, checking and maintaining equipment and procedures."

The report focuses on the £5.5 million paid out for surgical errors, including a case in which a surgeon left a pair of forceps inside a patient after an operation.

Goodwill aid to clean up armies of Third World

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

OVERSEAS aid is to be used for the first time to back military reforms in Third World countries. Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, is to announce details tomorrow of her plan to help to eliminate brutal, corrupt and ill-trained forces that blight the lives of millions.

Britain's £2.4 billion aid budget will not be used for equipping the armies with military hardware, training of soldiers or military planning. The aim is to introduce human-rights training and to improve the accountability of armed forces to a country's civilian authority.

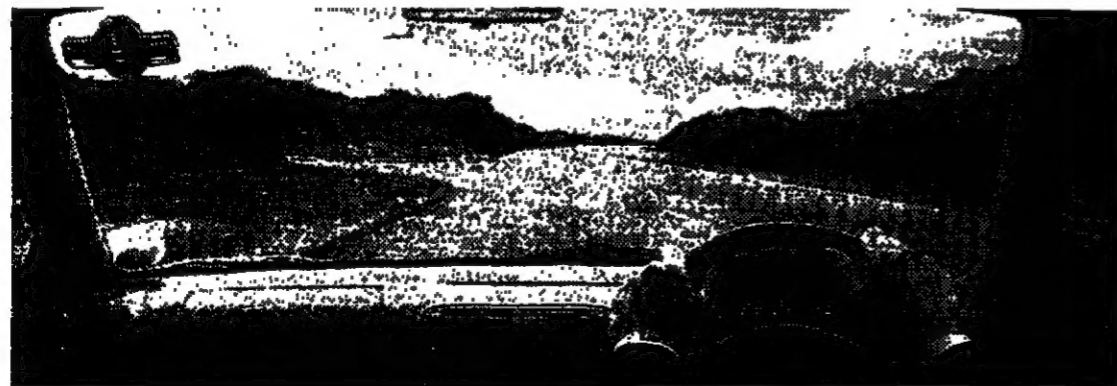
The Government believes that bloated and repressive security forces are blocking the development of the world's poorest countries. Without action, ministers believe that British cash aid for a new road or a bridge could be wasted. Miss Short will tell the Institute of Defence Studies in London that unless these military

forces face stricter controls, they will become the "seedbeds" for the next round of coups.

Her department is engaged in detailed work with the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office to bring greater stability to Sierra Leone, helping to draft a new constitution and working out the proper relationships between its defence ministry and the new army.

The new policy front coincides with greater efforts by the Government to prevent the involvement of children in war, to reduce the proliferation of small arms and light weaponry and to build up peace-keeping support in all the developing countries.

Last night Paul Eavis, director of the aid think-tank Safer World, welcomed the new policy. However, he called for a curb on arms sales. "We can't be arguing for restraint on military spending on the one hand and promote arms sales on the other."



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Hague's 'kitchen table' Cabinet

Continued from Page 1 sharp contrast to the centralism of the Thatcher-Major era. Mr Hague's aim is to reverse current opinion polls and focus groups which suggest that fewer than one in five voters believe the Tories have policies to deal with the issues that worry them most.

The strategy was outlined in a 50-minute presentation by Mr Hague at the last Shadow Cabinet meeting on Wednesday. His colleagues were said to be stunned by the force of his presentation and the blunt manner in which he laid out the new strategy. The Tory leader told them that his "kitchen table conservatism" was not an optional approach but a "compulsory purchase". He also announced that from

this point onwards "promotion and reward" to and within the Shadow Cabinet would depend exclusively on the effectiveness of individuals in meeting the new challenges. Of these the argument that the Tories should "concede and move on" is the most significant.

Some Shadow Cabinet members are known to be frustrated that they have not been allowed to float new ideas until the cumbersome machinery for reassessing policy set up by Peter Lilley, the Tory Deputy Leader, has slowly chewed them over.

The move also represents a return to Mr Hague's original emphasis when he first became party leader in June 1997.

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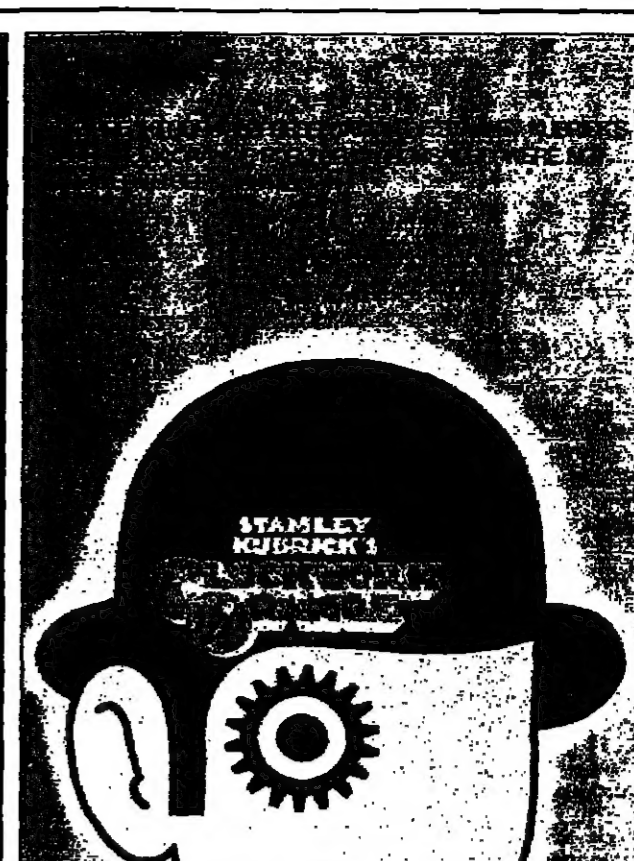
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Big screen milestones: Jack Nicholson slashing his way through *The Shining*; a scene from the beautiful but impenetrable *2001: A Space Odyssey*; and a poster for the subversive *A Clockwork Orange*, which is still banned in Britain

Kubrick: a cinematic odyssey

James Christopher celebrates the career of Stanley Kubrick

WIDELY acclaimed for his intellectual ambitions and his fierce perfectionism, Stanley Kubrick has occupied a unique niche in the film world. While his films have dealt with the threat of dehumanisation — men unhinged by war, or the toys of science — he himself has become increasingly obsessed with the artifice of cinema, the techniques that are the hallmarks of his great films, often at the expense of character and emotion.

Some argue that the lack of such warmth in his most important films was fatal to his claim as a great artist. But few can argue against the fantastic achievements of his lavishly stylish camera work. In 1961, Kubrick moved to England in search of greater independence from the studios. But he returned the following year for location work on *Lolita*, a controversial reworking of Nabokov's novel.

It raised hackles. What the critics didn't appreciate was the way in which Kubrick was able to sprinkle the bitter cynicism at the heart of the film with a healthy dose of the black humour that had characterised some of his earlier works. His penchant for the macabre was perhaps most brilliantly realised in *Dr Strangelove*, in which he treated the possibility of nuclear annihilation as an almighty grim joke. He couldn't have cast a better actor than Peter Sellers as the tight-lipped RAF officer, the US president, and the Nazi-like scientist. The result is scary and nightmarish, and far more effective in its portrait of insanity and scream for disarmament than any number of worthy Cold War documentaries. By this stage it was clear that ide-

as excited Kubrick more than celluloid personalities. *2001: A Space Odyssey* sharply polarised critical opinion. To some, this sci-fi journey into humanity's future was an overblown, impenetrable conundrum. To others, particularly Kubrick's younger fans, it was the ultimate audio-visual trip — a psychedelic experience in tune with the drug culture. Its breathtaking photography and the Academy Award-winning special effects guaranteed its classic status. *A Clockwork Orange*, cited as the year's best film by the New York Film Critics, is a striking, visually brilliant film that provides a chilling vision of a world dominated by anarchic delinquents. Malcolm McDowell's bad boy reputa-

tion was cemented by his performance as Alex, the leader of the Droogs, a gang who memorably killed a middle-class professor's wife with a giant phallus. It became a cult the moment its British release was mysteriously pulled by Kubrick himself. Since then, Kubrick has laboured, somewhat unfairly, under the over-hyped subversive legacy it has engendered. Kubrick was a meticulous filmmaker by any standards. In his later films, he took months, sometimes years, to prepare a single film. He took 300 days to shoot *Barry Lyndon*, another visually magnificent piece of work, but an often slow adaptation of this minor Thackeray novel. Equally exasperating for many

Kubrick fans was his adaptation of Stephen King's *The Shining*. Here Jack Nicholson slashes his way through a snow-bound hotel. Many didn't think much of Kubrick's odd excursion into the horror-fantasy genre. But the sheer emptiness of the film, with its surreal nightmarish angles, was as disturbing as the psychopath himself. With *Full Metal Jacket*, a dour adaptation of Gustave Hasford's novel, Kubrick returned to the military arena. His Vietnam film is a harrowing account of the dehumanising effects of military training. Few directors have ever divided critical opinion like Stanley Kubrick. His critics called him pretentious, fussy, intractable. But to many others he is a unique artist with a personal vision matched only by his brilliant way with a camera.

Final film that meant everyone had to wait

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

As a stunned Hollywood mourned Stanley Kubrick yesterday, admirers were left wondering if the extraordinary exertions of his final film may have hastened his death. With few details released about the film-maker's final hours, attention in the city where he was revered as an icon of the post-war era focussed on the marathon production schedule of *Eyes Wide Shut*, a psychological drama starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman in which Kubrick's perfectionism reportedly found new extremes.

The director worked ceaselessly for 19 months on a closed set near his St Albans home to create the sexually explicit tale of two psychiatrists married to each other but each involved in affairs with their patients. Given unlimited time by Warner Brothers — a sign of respect afforded to no other working director — Kubrick filmed for six times longer than the average studio project requires, exposing a million feet of celluloid and spending \$65 million (about £40 million), much of which went on accommodating actors in expensive hotels as they waited for scenes to be shot. Harvey Keitel had to be replaced by Sydney Pollack because after two months of waiting he had to leave to fulfill another commitment. Kidman waited for months at a time, working for barely 12 months of the shoot. Only Kubrick was constantly busy, rehearsing for days for indi-



Kidman: she waited for months in admiration

vidual scenes, according to Alan Cumming, the British actor, and thinking nothing of shooting 60 takes to be sure one would meet his exacting requirements in the editing room. Reports of frayed tempers and expiring patience leaked frequently from the set but Cruise and Kidman have never wavered in their public admiration for his workaholic methods. The film is to be released in the America on July 16. Warner Bros announced last year. Its gestation will have been short compared with Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, which took four years to film. But its premiere will be an occasion unique in Hollywood history: an unprecedented merging of hype and mourning at which the star of the occasion will be absent.

Career that opened the eyes of filmgoers



Lolita: introduction to controversy

1950-3: After working as a photojournalist for Look magazine, Stanley Kubrick made two short documentaries: *Day of the Fight* and *Flying Padre*, which he sold to RKO-Pathé for a modest profit. He did almost everything except act. 1955: *Fear and Desire* Kubrick's first feature was a virtually abstract war story made with money he borrowed from relatives and friends. 1956: *Killer's Kiss* A stylish black-and-white noir thriller shot on a \$75,000 budget. Moody story about a down-and-out boxer who saves a nightclub dancer from rape. 1958: *The Killing* Crisp vision of human greed and deceit in the aftermath of a robbery. 1959: *Paths of Glory* Kubrick's first prestige movie is a critique of military hypocrisy. Kirk Douglas is astonishing as the defender of condemned prisoners. 1960: *Spartacus* Epic account of abusive slave revolt in Rome led by Kirk Douglas. All-star cast included Laurence Olivier and Charles Laughton. 1962: *Lolita* Kubrick first attracted wide controversy with portrayal of James Mason as the pedophile obsessed with Sue Lyon. 1964: *Dr Strangelove* or, How I Learned to

Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb Arguably Kubrick's most perfectly realised film. Scary and hilarious as it cynically follows the path to a nuclear annihilation, Peter Sellers' magnificent in several roles. 1968: *2001: A Space Odyssey* Beautiful, impenetrable science fiction movie about a computer that hijacks a space mission to Jupiter. 1971: *A Clockwork Orange* Brilliant, subversive film that colourfully exploited the debate on aversion therapy while revelling in the delinquent excesses of Malcolm McDowell and his droogs. Still banned in Britain. 1976: *Barry Lyndon* Triumph of technique over human content. Visually sumptuous journey of Thackeray's military hero through 18th-century Europe. 1980: *The Shining* Jack Nicholson slashes his way through a snowbound hotel whose terror is superbly exacerbated by the artfulness with which it is shot. 1987: *Full Metal Jacket* Kubrick's Vietnam movie, full of black irony, madness, and racial bigotry in the ranks of the US Marines. With Matthew Modine and Adam Baldwin.



Dr Strangelove: scary and hilarious

Family burnt beyond recognition

BY PETER GLEESON, STUART TENDLER AND ANNIE FLURY

POLICE may need up to a week to properly identify the family of seven killed by an arsonist because of the severity of the blaze.

Yesterday police said that sophisticated techniques, including DNA testing, may have to be used to identify the two women who were killed, a 22-year-old man and three children. Police have now appealed for anyone who was near the three-storey house in the two hours before the fire to come forward. Scotland Yard said that officers were looking at a number of lines of inquiry but refused to comment further.

Detectives from the murder team have also spoken to neighbours of the family in Bellamy Road, Chingford, Essex, and questioned them about any links between members of the family and drugs. One neighbour, who refused to give

his name, said: "Police have been to the home before. This is a council estate and there are quite a few unsavoury characters about. But for God's sake, if someone's got a problem with someone else, let them sort it out between themselves. There's no need to bring an entire family into it."

Linda Lewis, 25, a next-door neighbour, said she would never forget the screams of the children and the sight of a woman at the window of the burning house pleading for help.

She said: "I heard screaming. I thought they were arguing. Then I heard the kids crying. I jumped out of bed and looked out of the window and I saw her screaming to me to help her. Then the screaming and crying had stopped. You couldn't see them any more."

Stunned neighbours and friends visited the pyre, charred remains of the family's home to pay their respects to those who had been killed and

more than 100 floral tributes were laid in front of the house. One large bouquet had been left from the firefighters who tackled the fire with a card which read: "Our deepest sympathy from all staff at Chingford Fire Station."

The fire is believed to have been started by someone who poured petrol through the letterbox and police have removed a red plastic petrol container found at the scene for forensic tests.

Four generations, including a boy aged two and twin four-year-old girls, died in the attack, all from smoke inhalation. Only one person, a 52-year-old grandfather, escaped the blaze. He suffered burns to his hands and was released from hospital yesterday.

Special prayers were said for the victims yesterday in local churches. Detective Superintendent James Moore Sutherland said: "This is a horrific attack on innocents. This is the worst I have seen in 31 years in the job."

Minister to tackle anti-gay behaviour on and off pitch

BY ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BANKS, the Sports Minister, is to head a concerted drive against homophobia in football that could result in new laws aimed at banishing anti-gay behaviour on and off the pitch.

The initiative could see players automatically sent off for homophobic abuse in the same way that racist language has for the first time this season become a red-card offence.

Mr Banks made clear yesterday that he wanted to use the exchanges between two England internation-

als, Robbie Fowler and Graeme Le Saux, a week ago to force football clubs and the game's authorities to face up to the issue. "We have a problem and I think we should use this particular incident to have an adult discussion about homophobia in sport," he said.

Although he wanted to see what suggestions the game's governing bodies and players' representatives came up with initially, he said that he did not rule out government legislation at a future date.

"This is the start, we are at the be-

ginning of a process. Let's see whether we can resolve this and see what steps we need to take before we decide if we need to go to the argument of legislation," he told BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*.

Mr Banks, talking to *The Times*, pointed out that Fowler's part in last weekend's incident, which Le Saux, who is married with a baby daughter, complained about, amounted to homophobic incitement and have constituted a breach of the peace had it happened outside a football ground.

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Teachers demand Woodhead inquiry

John O'Leary on reports that the Chief Inspector had an affair with a pupil

LEADERS of teachers' unions called for an inquiry yesterday into allegations that Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, had an affair with a pupil in his days as a teacher. The move comes after claims from his former wife that he lied about the relationship to save his job.

Mr Woodhead issued a public denial last month that he and Amanda Johnston had an affair while they were teacher and pupil at Gordano School, near Bristol, in the 1970s. But she said that a nine-year relationship began only after Mrs Johnston had dropped out of East Anglia University.

Yesterday, however, the Chief Inspector's former wife, Cathy, insisted that he had confessed to her in 1979 that he was having an affair with a sixth-former. In an article in *The Mail on Sunday*, she claimed that he had even suggested that Mrs Johnston should move into the family home with their 15-month-old daughter.

Mrs Woodhead rejected the suggestion and divorced her husband the following year. She said that she had decided to break a 23-year silence on the episode because the Chief Inspector's public statements were "effectively denying the reality of what was for me a pro-



Amanda Johnston and Chris Woodhead on their wedding day

found experience". She said: "I feel I have not spoken enough."

Mr Woodhead's defence has been that the affair was a "one-off" and that he had never spoken to his wife about it. He said that he had never spoken to his wife about it.

Mr Woodhead said that he had never spoken to his wife about it. He said that he had never spoken to his wife about it.

that if his ex-wife is saying he has lied in public, simply for him to say "no comment" is not an adequate response."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "I cannot see how the Government can avoid holding an inquiry into the accuracy or otherwise of what the Chief Inspector has been saying. I cannot see how he can stay in his post if it is demonstrated that he lied in public."

of integrity at the head of it. If what Mr Woodhead has said is proved not to be true, this is not the case."

Legislation now before Parliament would make teachers liable to imprisonment if they had sex with a pupil. It was that which prompted the original row last month, when Mr Woodhead told a student at Exeter University that, though inadvisable, such affairs could be "educative and experiential on both sides."

The Chief Inspector later apologised for the remark and said that it did not reflect his true feelings. He did not approve of such affairs and, challenged on his own relationship with Mrs Johnston, insisted that nothing improper had taken place while she was a pupil.

Mrs Woodhead said in her article: "At first, I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Then I was simply incensed. Yes, I thought, while you were away being educative and experiential with someone else, I was looking after our baby daughter. He angered me further by repeating his lies about when the affair started, thus effectively denying the reality of what was for me a profoundly painful episode."

The couple's daughter, Tamzin, 23, has been staying with her father during the furore.



St John Ambulance volunteers help an injured Derby player in the weekend's FA Cup quarter final against Arsenal

St John hit by volunteer shortage

By SUSIE STEINER

THE St John Ambulance service is launching a national recruitment drive, saying that its future is in doubt after haemorrhaging volunteers at a rate of about 4,000 a year. The service provides first-aid cover at major events, relying on 57,000 workers to offer their services free.

Philip Gee, director of training and operations, blamed the crisis on the pressures of modern life. "There are more demands on people's time. People work longer hours. Their leisure time is very

precious and there is so much more they can do with it nowadays."

Referring to a 14 per cent drop in the number of young cadets, Mr Gee said: "You wonder how many of them are surfing the Net."

Events such as Wimbledon, the Grand Prix at Silverstone, the London Marathon and Notting Hill Carnival rely on the presence of St John Ambulance staff to satisfy the legal requirement to provide first aid. The charity does not charge a fee but relies on donations.

The service's volunteers treat about

150,000 casualties a year. St John staff also helped in the clean-up after the Omagh bombing and have provided back-up after terrorist attacks in London. Closure would force event organisers to turn to the commercial sector, where one first aider can cost up to £300 per weekend. The cost of replacing the service is estimated at £40 million a year.

This month's recruitment drive hopes to bring in 5,000 volunteers through increased publicity and open days. "The problem is that people won't miss us until we are not there," Mr Gee said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Refilling of lighter leads to death

A man who accidentally set his clothes on fire while refilling a cigarette lighter died in hospital on Saturday. Christopher Piper, 35, who was with his wife at their home in Fleet, Hampshire, tried to extinguish the flames but in doing so started three separate fires. A neighbour's car also caught alight after he climbed out of a window as neighbours tried to douse the flames. Mrs Piper suffered serious burns to her hands and feet.

Girl's last hours

Police were trying to discover the last hours of Rebecca Storrs, 18, found battered to death on a river bank in Bridgend, South Wales, on Saturday after going out with friends on Friday night.

McDonald's op

The newscaster Sheena McDonald, 44, has had plastic surgery to her face as she continues to improve after being knocked unconscious by a police van nine days ago in Islington, North London.

Policeman loses

Alan Caulfield, who claimed he had been denied promotion in the Louth and Borders Police because he was English, has lost his racial discrimination case. The tribunal findings will be given today.

Baby inquiry

Detectives were questioning a man of 26 after the death of a baby boy at Nuneaton, Warwickshire police said that the death was being treated as suspicious. Police were alerted by ambulance staff.

Pop challenge

Belle and Sebastian, winners of the best newcomer prize in the Brit music awards, may have to give up their title. The producer Pete Waterman is to complain that their previous chart successes ruled them out.

Planned pregnancy 'not always for best'

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN who become pregnant without planning to do so are more likely to have a happier life than women whose pregnancies are carefully planned. Researchers at Glasgow University have found that women with unplanned pregnancies had far greater chances of cementing relationships with their partner, family and friends, of improving their work and social life, and even of getting better housing.

The findings could have far-reaching implications for family planning organisations and for women facing decisions about contraception and pregnancy. They suggest that there are powerful factors driving some women to get pregnant, even though they may not realise it at the time.

Elizabeth Campbell, of the university's department of psychological medicine, said: "We are not suggesting that women deliberately become pregnant to achieve these secondary gains but it does seem that women with something substantial to gain from pregnancy are those who end up by having 'unplanned' pregnancies." That suggested that couples having a sexual relationship ought openly to discuss the possibility of pregnancy, even if they were not planning to have a child, so that they would be prepared if it did occur. "It probably means that men will have to take greater responsibility for contraception," she added.

The study, published in the March issue of the *British Journal of Medical Psychology*, was based on interviews with 128 women. Eighty-one per cent of women who had unplanned pregnancies were found to be in situations of high or some possible gain from motherhood before they became pregnant. Only 16 per cent of the planned pregnancy group had high secondary gain ratings.

Chris Evans tries again for tabloid

By CAROL MITCHELL, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS EVANS, the maverick disc jockey whose ambition turned him into a media mogul, has made a new bid for a stake in the *Daily Star*.

Express Newspapers, which owns the tabloid title, confirmed yesterday that Ginger Media, Mr Evans's company, had made an approach to Lord Hollick, chief executive of United News and Media, the paper's holding company, but that so far no deal had been struck.

Mr Evans, who bought Virgin Radio from Richard Branson in 1997, is said to have offered Lord Hollick a 16 per

cent share of his Ginger Media Group as a straight swap for the *Daily Star*, which sells about 540,000 copies daily and is famed for its laddish mixture of football, showbusiness and scantily clad women.

But Express Newspapers financial experts are baulking at the proposal, fearing that the cost of running printing presses for the Express titles alone would be too high.

Mr Evans, whose Ginger Productions makes television programmes, is said still to be keen on the idea of expanding his media empire and may make another bid in the future.

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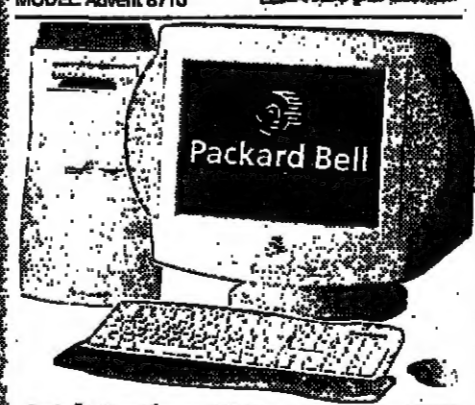
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TV 'sting' puts rare bird in custody row

Park duped into selling macaw fears for species' future, write

Peter Gleeson and Audrey Magee

A RARE Illiger macaw is at the centre of a custody dispute after being bought by a bogus company in a television "sting" that has backfired on the programme-makers.

The parrot, named Pimpernel, was sold by one of Britain's leading wildlife parks after it was led to believe the bird would go to Ireland to be bred with a mate of the same species.

The programme was organised by Carlton Television, which believed that Pimpernel was heading for a leading parrot sanctuary in Ireland. Instead, the bird is now being kept in a house in Dublin by a former circus worker who was hired by the programme-makers.

Pimpernel is with a mate but its partner is a female Hahn's macaw, a different species, which has angered con-

servationists. Despite a ruling by the Broadcasting Standards Commission that Paradise Park in Cornwall was unfairly duped into selling Pimpernel, the park has been unable to get the bird back.

The parrot tug-of-war follows a Carlton documentary in October 1997 on the way zoos dispose of surplus animals. 20-20 Television, the programme-makers, paid Ray Cimino, a self-styled Dublin animal rights activist, to pose as a dealer for a company called Wildlife Direct. Most zoos refused to deal with him but Paradise Park was one of two organisations which sent a list of available animals.

Cimino, described in the programme as a "leading Irish animal consultant", paid £400 for the bird, a native of north-east Brazil and Argentina, in a secretly filmed deal. Paradise



Illiger macaws are in danger of extinction

Park has built up a reputation as a major Cornwall tourist attraction and has 462 birds of 126 species.

Mike Reynolds, who has owned the park since 1973, complained to the Broadcasting Standards Commission that he only sold the bird because he was given firm assurances about its welfare.

In December, the Commission agreed the programme had been unfair in several key respects. Its ruling stated: "Par-

adise Park's track record suggests that they were acting in good faith on the information they had been given in relation to the sale of the parrot. Although they may have been naive in taking their dealings with Wildlife Direct at face value, there was no suggestion of any illegal behaviour or cruelty."

Mr Reynolds, the founder of the World Parrot Trust, a body aimed at helping to save over 30 different endangered parrot species, has now switched his energies to getting Pimpernel back. But despite twice writing to Mr Cimino offering to buy the parrot back, it remains in Dublin.

Mr Reynolds said: "We want it back. I want to get it out of this mess. Mr Cimino has paired it up with a bird of a different species. He's about to breed hybrids, which is not a good idea."

Carlton, which was criticised in January for showing faked scenes in a documentary on the Colombian drugs trade, has consistently maintained that the bird was living in a



Ray Cimino insists that Pimpernel is better off in his two-bedroom house in Dublin than at Paradise Park

top parrot sanctuary in Ireland, housed at the Irish Parrot Rescue Trust. In evidence to the broadcasting watchdog, Carlton said: "The parrot is in a substantially improved physical and mental condition since its purchase by the programme-makers."

But Cimino says he is keeping the two-year-old parrot in his two-bedroom house in a

run-down part of Dublin's north inner city. In keeping with the area, Mr Cimino has changed the parrot's name to "The Gurrler", Dublin slang for a troublesome youth.

Mr Cimino insists that the parrot is perfectly healthy and happy. He refuses to return the bird, which measures about 18 inches from head to the tip of its tail, to Paradise

Park until Mr Reynolds guarantees that the bird will be found an alternative home, inspected and approved by the Irishman. He said: "They want the parrot but they have no legal claim or title over it. I paid them for it and they were prepared to take the money."

He dismisses Mr Reynolds's claims that the parrot needs to be with another Illiger Macaw

for mating and companionship as "utter nonsense." But Tony Juniper of Friends of the Earth, a leading parrot expert, recommended that the bird be returned to England.

He said: "A domestic house in Dublin, compared to Paradise Park, is not an alternative. The bird is vulnerable to extinction. To have it with a different species is not sensible."

'Headless man' in legal threat to biographer

By Gillian Harris
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A MAN alleged to be at the centre of one of Britain's most sensational divorce scandals is said to be threatening legal action against a biographer who intends to reveal his identity in a book later this year.

Michael Thornton, who has been working on his biography of the late Duchess of Argyll for 12 years, has received more than a dozen letters from lawyers acting for the man whom he believes appeared in photographs used in court as evidence of the duchess's "multiple adultery".

He was one of 88 men cited by the 11th Duke of Argyll as his wife's lovers. They included three members of the Royal Family, two Cabinet ministers and three actors. During the hearing in 1963, the most fevered speculation surrounded the identity of the "headless man", who featured in two shots which cut him off at the neck but showed the duchess performing a sex act while wearing nothing but a string of pearls.

Mr Thornton, 58, who became a close friend of the duchess, says that he is prepared to name the man in his book, *Argyll versus Argyll*, to



The duchess' husband said she had 88 lovers

be published by Michael Joseph. He told *Scotland on Sunday* newspaper: "He persists in denying it but I have the evidence now."

Mr Thornton said that he had been able to confirm the man's name through material from private files belonging to Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, who died last week. Lord Denning, who conducted an inquiry into the Profumo scandal in the 1960s, discovered political and aristocratic connections with the Argyll case.

The Argyll family has always declined to comment on the divorce. The duchess died in London in 1993.

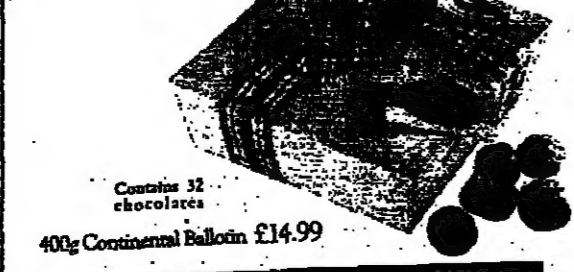
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New magazine for women not the write stuff

New journal is said to be outdated and unfortunately named, report Alex O'Connell and Imogen O'Rourke

A MAGAZINE for women writers that has received £70,000 in lottery funding has been criticised by the female literati for its "unfortunate" title and "outdated" manifesto.

Mslxia was founded on the premise that there is something rotten in the state of publishing. Footnotes beneath the magazine's editorial explain that "Dyslexia is a difficulty, more prevalent in men, with reading and spelling. *Mslxia* is a difficulty, more prevalent in women, with getting published."

The sickness metaphor is extended throughout the magazine — writers are called PWDs (Persons with Writing Disorders) and a Dr Ingrid K fronts a "Word Surgeon", to which women can send their writing for criticism.

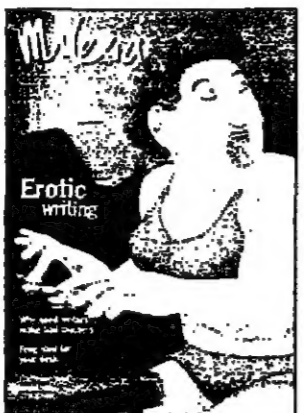
Mslxia, which is launched today, promises to provide "information, guidance and inspiration for published and unpublished authors and improve the quality and standing of women's literature."

But women writers, including Fay Weldon, have argued in the past that niche publishing should be careful not to "perpetuate victimisation and complaint". Although the magazine may be praised by the

Spare Rib generation, many women in publishing are puzzled by its tone and title. *Mslxia*'s guest editor, Michele Roberts, who has chosen a selection of erotic fiction for the first issue, said: "The title is most unfortunate and implies that being a woman is a kind of disability."

Claire Rayner, the broadcaster and writer, laughed when told of the magazine's name. "It is a ridiculous title and is going to mean the very opposite of what the editors think it is," she said.

Beryl Bainbridge, the win-



The first issue of *Mslxia* focuses on erotic fiction

ner of this year's WH Smith literary prize, was put off by Dr Ingrid K's column, which aims to stamp out readers' clichés and rewrite sloppy copy. "This is a cliché," Bainbridge said, pointing to Dr K's phrase "model wife". The novelist also took exception to a line that referred to the tendons at the base of a woman's "smooth throat".

"If her throat was really smooth he wouldn't know about her tendons," she said.

A woman literary agent who asked not to be named said: "We have been there and done that and now women are just getting on with things. I don't think they are cowering at home too scared to take their manuscript out from under the mattress, as the tone of this magazine implies."

Mslxia's editor, Debbie Taylor, a former editor of *New Internationalist*, hit upon the idea for the magazine while working on an annual journal of women's writing. She was shocked to see that there were more than 3,000 submissions, but only 600 subscribers. At the same time, she noted, *Writer's News*, a practical guide, had a readership of 18,000.

"I realised that people didn't so much want to read avant-

garde fiction as get to see their own work published," she said.

Ms Taylor told funding bodies that the publishing world was dominated by men and that women were less confident about approaching publishers.

"They tend to hesitate before sending a manuscript unless

they think it's very very good," she said.

Ms Taylor received a three-year grant from Arts 4 Every-one, combined with funding from the lottery and Northern Arts. By 2001, she hopes, *Mslxia* will be able to pay its own way on subscriptions.

But Sally O'Sullivan, the founder of *Cabal*, said that

Ms Taylor had a tough job ahead and that she would be interested to see how the magazine's circulation developed.

"Successful writers aren't that helpful when it comes to giving advice about how to write. It is such a lonely business that it is quite hard to be fascinated about it," Ms O'Sullivan said.



Paper ceiling: Debbie Taylor says that women hesitate to send manuscripts to publishers



Lewis and Tolkien had weekly meetings at the pub but frequently popped in for an impromptu drink

Oxford pub keeps literary tradition alive

BY HANNAH BETTS

THE Oxford pub where J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis held weekly literary meetings is backing *The Times* Free Books For Schools scheme in an attempt to create a new literary tradition.

The Eagle and Child, known to generations of students as the Bird and Baby, hosted the Lewis-Tolkien coffee between 1946 and 1967. The group, known as the Inklings, held official meetings every Tuesday lunchtime but frequently popped in for impromptu drinking sessions. C.S. Lewis's chair remains in the bar and is Oxford's prime target for tourist bottoms.

Several of Lewis's books, including *Brave New World* and *The Screwtape Letters*, are included in the Free Books for Schools scheme, which offers a range of titles in exchange for tokens from News International newspapers and Walkers snackfoods.

There has been speculation that passages from *The Hobbit* and the *Narnia* stories were composed in the Eagle and Child, inspired by a heady combination of alcohol and male bonding.

However Paul Yull, the licensee, is wary of such claims. "They just got drunk a lot and talked nonsense — a tradition that is still going strong," he said.

"But it was certainly their influence that made us decide that collecting tokens might help to generate the literary giants of the future." The



Oxford's dead poets' society is resurrected

Robin Young reports on a reprieve for the best of British verse

THE apparently dead poets' society at Oxford University Press managed an almost miraculous resurrection yesterday.

Oxford Poets, the poetry list of 26 well-known versifiers that OUP had publicly condemned on the grounds that its sales had to be subsidised, will live on thanks to an agreement between the university and Carcanet Press, which specialises in poetry.

OUP is owned by Oxford University and makes about £6 million for the university each year, but the OUP

board of directors had decided that *Oxford Poets* was an unjustifiable drain on their revenues. OUP's core activity is described as "publishing of scholarly and educational work in pursuit of the university's objectives", and it began publishing contemporary poetry only in the 1960s.

Among the 26 poets currently published in the *Oxford Poets* list are Peter Porter, D.J. Enright, Fleur Ad-

cock, Thomas Kinsella, Michael Donaghy, Alice Oswald, Jo Shapcott and Jamie McKeandrick.

The decision to abandon the publication of their efforts angered poets and their readers, including many eminent academics. Jon Stallworthy, the Oxford Professor of English Literature and editor of the *Oxford Book of War Poetry*, who is himself a Carcanet-published poet, accused the

OUP delegates of "an act of vandalism".

Now the OUP has agreed that an editorial board appointed by the university's English faculty and chaired by a faculty member will work with OUP and Carcanet to improve both the standard and the publishing returns of *Oxford Poets*.

Henry Reece, OUP's chief executive, denied that the deal with Carcanet

represented a change of heart, saying: "We have been trying to find a solution that keeps the poetry list together for the last six months. This promises to be an excellent partnership and will appeal to all those concerned about the widest possible dissemination of poetry."

Michael Schmidt, Carcanet's manager and editorial director, said: "It is a particular pleasure to play a part in the *Oxford Poets* list which, with Faber's, is the best list of contemporary poetry in English."

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Paedophiles turn attention to East Europe

A GROWING number of British paedophiles, some just out of prison, are travelling to Eastern Europe to buy youngsters for the price of a take-away burger.

The sudden increase in activity comes after a clampdown by the authorities in Thailand and the Philippines, traditional haunts of child abusers.

Detectives say paedophiles have targeted Prague, capital of the Czech Republic, because it is only a few hours away and the police there are not yet geared up to deal with the sudden influx of offenders.

Scotland Yard believes paedophiles are travelling to Eastern Europe up to 700 times a year to abuse children of poverty-stricken parents, who will hand over their sons and daughters for food or drink. Police intelligence suggests that one paedophile can abuse up to 20 children in a single trip.

A former Radio 1 disc jockey is to appear in a Prague court this week on charges involving boys under 15, the age of consent there. Chris Denning, 57, was allegedly followed after leaving Britain by the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS), which alerted the authorities in Prague. He denies the charges.

Prosecutions are rare because the men are difficult to track. Even though sex offenders in this country have to sign a sex register on their release from prison it does not stop them from travelling abroad.

And although the Sex Offenders Act of 1997 gave British authorities the ability to prosecute paedophiles for crimes committed abroad, there has not been a single prosecution. The Home Office says that is because it would prefer that people be dealt with in the country where the crime has been committed. The police also say that it could be difficult to make sure that witnesses travelled to Britain to give evidence.

A former detective with the Paedophile Unit at Scotland Yard said: "We can stop football hooligans going abroad but not paedophiles. Poverty in the East European countries makes it a popular choice for them. The children are cheap."

One of Britain's most dangerous paedophiles is still being hunted by British police after disappearing on his release

In Prague a child costs the price of a burger, and abusers are flooding in, writes Adam Fresco

from prison in June 1997 without signing the Sex Offenders Register. He is believed to be in Eastern Europe.

Warwick Spinks, 34, served 30 months of a seven-year sentence for drugging and kidnapping a 14-year-old boy from Yorkshire and taking him to Amsterdam where he was sold to a gay brothel. The youngster was able to escape and alerted the authorities.

Described as the "Fid Fifer" of child molesters, on his release from prison he sent his probation officer a mocking postcard from Gatwick saying he was leaving the country. He can be sentenced in this country to six months imprisonment or a fine of up to £5,000 for not signing the register and letting police know his whereabouts.

Predatory paedophiles, so called because they will do anything and travel anywhere to

get into a position whereby they can abuse children, have been abandoning their former haunts in the Far East. The authorities in the Philippines and Thailand are policing areas where paedophiles are known to congregate, making it harder for them to procure children. In July last year John Pidd, a 49-year-old

Briton, was jailed for 14 years in the Philippines for abusing an eight-year-old boy.

Prague is much nearer, only two hours' flight away, and a few pounds goes a long way in the Czech Republic.

Wayne Smith, head of the NCIS Special Crime Unit, said: "Predatory paedophiles are very dangerous. They will go to extreme lengths to satisfy their desires. They do not see there is anything wrong with their activity."

"We make intelligence logs and last year we made 340 logs of individuals travelling abroad, although not necessarily different individuals. That is 20 per cent more travelling

through Europe abusing children than in 1997.

"Because we obviously don't always know when they are travelling the number could be as high as 600 or 700 instances of paedophiles travelling abroad," he said.

Paedophiles often exchange information and police believe they have even tried to organise conventions to discuss the best places to go and ways of avoiding the authorities. Mr Smith admitted that there was worrying evidence to show the number of paedophiles travelling abroad was increasing.

"It is a terrible picture. These are particularly dangerous people. The introduction of the Sex Offenders Act did not stop them abusing. They will offend, they need to offend, and unfortunately they will need to travel in order to satisfy their demands."



The futuristic Leila Pearce design, modelled by Victoria Jacobson, another student

Secondhand clothes are fit for Caprice

By Claudia Joseph

CAPRICE, the supermodel who favours Versace lace dresses, is to stroll down the catwalk in a secondhand outfit recycled from a charity shop.

Fashion students from across the country have created a range of designs from materials such as transistor radios, bin-bags, quilted bedspreads and hessian sacks for a competition run by The Cancer Research Campaign. The judges include Jeff Banks, the designer and former *Clothes Show* presenter, and Caprice, who will model the winning design.

More than 200 students entered the competition, which is based on the theme *Metamorphosis*. Fifty-six have made it through the regional heats to have their creations modelled by professionals on Thursday afternoon at the American Intercontinental University in West London. The winner will spend two weeks gaining work experience with Mr Banks and Red

or Dead, the fashion designers. Wayne Hemingway, chairman of Red or Dead, which began by recycling second-hand clothes and remodelled shoes in Camden Market, said: "This is something very close to our hearts."

Claudia McVie, south-west regional director of the charity and one of the judges, said: "The recycling fashion show is the perfect way to promote recycling. It allows us to introduce the great value for money our charity shops represent."

Among the entrants is Leila Pearce, 27, taking a degree in fashion and textile design at the University of the West of England in Bristol. She created leggings and a corset from ski-wear and a transistor radio circuit board, and a silver head-dress from rubber, elastic and LED lights. She said: "The design is based on transformer toys. It is looking at the future when people and technology will live harmoniously together."

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THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OU EXPERIENCE

Ashdown calls party to action for final time

By JAMES LANDALE AND JASON ALLARDYCE

PADDY ASHDOWN urged the Liberal Democrats to have no limit to their ambitions for power as he set his party on an election footing for the last time as leader yesterday.

In his last speech to a national party gathering, he encouraged his activists gathered in Edinburgh to redouble their efforts in campaigning for this summer's local, regional and European polls.

And despite the recognition among many of the party faithful that yesterday marked the end of an era, Mr Ashdown

mentioned his 11-year tenure only once.

In a pragmatic and unsentimental speech, he also delivered a thinly veiled warning to his successor — that he or she should maintain the party's current strategy of limited co-operation with Labour. The Liberal Democrats, he said, could not have an impact from the touchline: "We can only do it as players on the field."

Mr Ashdown set out his party's terms for a possible coalition with Labour in the forth-

coming Scottish parliament. If Labour was not interested in investing more in education, they should "not even bother to pick up the phone", he said.

In a speech lasting just under an hour, Mr Ashdown attacked Labour's uncertainty and unwillingness to be bold. "Time and again this Government ducks the really big issues," he said.

"The Prime Minister will tell Richard and Judy what to do about Glenn Hoddle but he won't tell us what he'll do about the euro."

Labour, he said, boasted that it roared like a lion. "But far too frequently it squeaks like a mouse. I do not doubt new Labour's good intentions but I despair at their lack of ambition. We can do better. We can be better."

The party was embarked on a "voyage to a new political world" created by the devolved Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly, the introduction of the euro and other constitutional reforms.

But he gave warnings: "The changes we have begun could lead to a more open, more tolerant, more liberal Britain or they could be just another brief fluttering of hope, quick-



Paddy Ashdown speaking at the Liberal Democrats' conference in Edinburgh, where he urged members to put no limit to their ambitions for power

Just don't mention that contest

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FOR the Liberal Democrat faithful gathered in Edinburgh a helpful badge had been included in the conference pack. "My vote — up for grabs," it said simply. The accompanying instructions declared: "Wear this badge around the bars and make sure you get spotted by one of those MPs who isn't standing for leader."

That was one of the few public albeit tacit acknowledgements that this weekend was a leadership contest that dare not speak its name. Officially no one is campaigning, positioning, or lobbying to

become Paddy Ashdown's successor. All MPs — potential candidates and their footsoldiers — have been firmly instructed to keep their mouths shut. Two new boys who foolishly allowed their allegiances to become public last week have been carpooled by Mr Ashdown. Nothing they were told, should divert the party's attention from the local, regional and European elections in May and June.

Nothing should happen until Mr Ashdown formally announces his intention to stand down on June 11. Nominations must be in by June 28. Voting will not start until mid-July. Mr Ashdown, they emphasise, is going to be party leader un-

til August 9, when his successor is announced. That is five months away.

The truth is that everyone at the spring conference was talking about nothing but the leadership. Potential candidates were seen buying endless rounds of drinks late into the night at the conference hotel. The conference hall mysteriously filled when young pretenders delivered speeches. Hypothetical election scenarios of extraordinary complexity were doing the rounds.

But amid the electioneering, Mr Ashdown was mischievous to the last. "I have changed my mind," he told the members. After a pause, he added: "Only joking, but what a lot of white faces there are."

PADDY'S PARTY PIECES

- New Labour boasts that it roars like a lion. But far too frequently it squeaks like a mouse. — Edinburgh 1999
- We must search for the heroes made ourselves. — Nottingham 1996
- You cannot agree with a blank sheet of paper. — Glasgow 1995
- Let me tell you what I fear after the next General Election. I fear a Government empty of ideas and devoid of reforming radicalism. I fear a Government that continues to avoid a whole-hearted commitment to our European future. — Brighton 1994
- There is no glass ceiling for the Liberal Democrats. — Blackpool 1993
- There is an old rhyme that sums up Labour. Something borrowed, a lot that's blue, too much that's old and nothing new. — Bournemouth 1991
- Labour is the music of Dire Straits, the Tories are the music of Simple Minds, but we are the New Kids on the Block. — Bournemouth 1991
- Where Labour betray Britain as well as themselves is in their failure of courage: the weakness, the narrowness and the timidity of their vision. — Blackpool 1990
- This party is back on the road and travelling upwards. — Brighton 1989

Bell backs son-in-law's plan to fight his seat

By MARK INGLEFIELD
POLITICAL REPORTER

MARTIN BELL, the BBC war correspondent turned politician, has welcomed an attempt by his son-in-law to replace him as MP for Tatton.

Peter Bracken, who is married to Mr Bell's eldest daughter, Melissa, told *The Times* yesterday that he wanted to become the Labour candidate for the Cheshire seat. His decision came on the day that the area's local Conservative Party finalised a shortlist of four candidates for the seat, which the Tories held by a majority of 20,000 until Mr Bell's victory at the last general election.

"I don't want to be seen as flying my kite but if I was offered Tatton it would be a great opportunity and honour to be its MP," Mr Bracken said.

Mr Bell, who has pledged not to stand for a second term, said: "If he wants to stand and is selected then I wish him



Peter Bracken with his wife, Melissa

well. Tatton is the fourth safest Conservative seat in the country but I think the Conservatives are very wise not to take it for granted."

If Mr Bracken is selected by Labour he will have a tough fight on his hands. The Tories are determined to wrest back Tatton, which they lost when the Labour Party and Liberal Democrats stood down their

candidates at the last election so that Mr Bell could fight the seat on an anti-sleaze ticket.

The then MP, Neil Hamilton, had been forced to resign as a minister because of his involvement in the cash for questions scandal and the Tories are determined to find a candidate who is as "clean as a whistle" to win back their former stronghold.

One of those tipped to make the final shortlist, which was being finalised yesterday, is George Osborne, William Hague's chief speechwriter. Mr Osborne will be pitched against a strong local candidate, Derek Squirrel, a former mayor of Knutsford.

Mr Bracken, 38, a former Army major, currently works for a headhunting agency. He and Melissa met during the 1997 election campaign, when she was working for her father and he was helping the Labour Party and Liberal Democrats stand down their first child.

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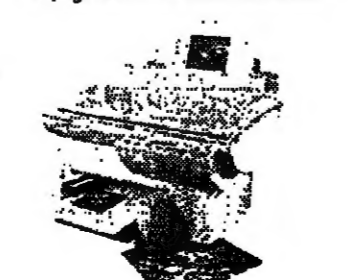
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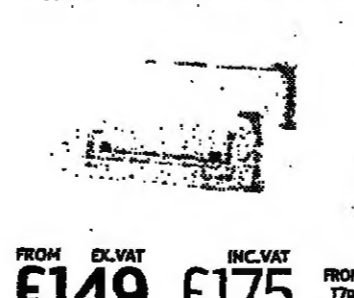
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In search of the 'holy water' of Antrim

They're a dying breed now, but Martin Fletcher tracked down one of Ireland's poteen makers

IN A tiny, sweltering outhouse lit by a single lightbulb in a remote part of Co Antrim an old man chuckles as a crystal-clear liquid trickles from a spout at the bottom of a large blue barrel. For half a century Patrick has been making poteen, and another batch of his fiery, potent tipple is on its way. Don't drink it yet, he says. Wait till it gets weaker. The first litre or two is "poison" — so strong it would kill you.

I had been looking for one of the dying breed of poteen makers for weeks. Everyone knows how to get the stuff, even police and customs officers, but finding a maker is a different matter. Then one evening my telephone rang. "You're looking for a character?" a man's voice asked. "Meet me outside the bakery in Dunloy at 7pm tomorrow."

Dunloy is a nationalist village not many miles from Bushmills, where the world's first legal whiskey distillery was established in 1609. I sat in the darkness for half an hour until a car drew up alongside mine. A man with a baseball cap and two days' stubble wound down his window. "Hop in," said Sean, and for 15 minutes we wound through back lanes until we reached an isolated bungalow. "Yer man will be sizing you up before he talks," Sean warned. "He'll want to be sure of you." And in we walked to a spartan living room with a coal fire, a battered sofa and a few holy pictures on the wall.

Patrick (not his real name) was sitting in an upright chair, a genial fellow in his mid-seventies with white hair and bushy eyebrows. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren were watching television. He sat us down and dispatched a grandson to fetch us a glass of his "holy water" or "mountain dew". His wife brought tea and scones.

Patrick had learnt his art from the legendary Mickey McIlhatton, "King of the Glens", he told me in an accent so thick he might have been speaking Urdu. Indeed Sean had to translate. "I asked if I could watch him and he said 'aye'," recalled Patrick. "I watched and I thought I could do that myself."

In the old days, when people could not afford the legal stuff, he would produce 1,000 bottles a year. Now he makes barely 100, which he sells by word of mouth for £6 each. He has been caught twice. The first time he was fined £5 and the second, 30 years ago, £100. "If they caught me now I'd be jail," he reckoned, but there is little chance he will be.

The local police turn a blind eye. Customs officers are far more concerned about the quantities of alcohol, tobacco and diesel being smuggled into Northern Ireland from the South. A spokesman confirmed that poteen was "not a high priority", though he said that bad poteen could cause



A glass of "mountain dew" is taken between the boiler, right, and the condenser, from which the pure poteen emerges as a crystal-clear liquid

blindness and even death. Patrick was nearly caught a few years ago when security forces searching for arms stumbled across his brew in a neighbour's hen house, but with the Troubles over even that danger has receded.

He took us into a shed behind his house where two 20-gallon barrels of fermenting "wash" — sugar, treacle, grapes, raisins, yeast and water — were emitting a strong, sweet smell from beneath their canvas covers. His neighbours all knew when he was brewing, he chuckled.

After three weeks he strains the "wash" into a milk churn, carries it into the outhouse, and transfers it into a large steel boiler beneath which he places a propane gas ring. It takes an hour for the wash to start boiling. The steam is funnelled into a coiled copper pipe — the "worm" — that spirals down into the blue barrel, which is filled with cold water. The steam condenses and comes out through the spout as pure poteen. The entire "run" takes about three hours, and produces enough to fill a dozen gin or vodka bottles with a fluid twice as strong. Patrick

no longer drinks poteen himself. He gave it up a few years ago after a fearful binge. "I was that sick I didn't care if I died or no," he said. His wife now does his tasting.

He knows of no one else in the area that still makes poteen, and none of his sons showed any interest, but he has taught one of his teenage grandsons, who fully intends to keep the art alive.

The evening became distinctly jolly, and ended with us performing various tests with Patrick's poteen. We lit pieces of newspaper covered in the stuff and watched it burn off with a bright blue flame while leaving the paper unscathed. We then did the same using our fingers. Happily the poteen passed both tests, and Sean and I walked out into the night clutching a couple of bottles each as trophies.

Spirits are raised across the globe

By ROBIN YOUNG

THOUGH there is some evidence that distillation was applied to ancient "beers" based on rice, millet or molasses as early as 800BC, spirits are relative latecomers to the West, post-dating wine and beer by many centuries.

Nonetheless almost every country or region, with the exception of central Africa, has evolved its own spirit based on the cheapest and most plentiful fermentable material available. The Celts of Ireland, Scotland and Wales were world leaders in distilling, developing whiskies made from alcoholic mashes of local grains, which fermented easily in the damp climate.

England's equivalent was gin, also derived from fermented grain. Unlike whisky, which is aged in wood to give it colour and flavour, gin was dosed with flavourings, principally juniper. England also has a small tradition of apple brandy, the best known varie-

ties of which are from Normandy (calvados) or New England (applejack).

Vodka can be made from virtually anything, with grain, molasses and potatoes being the most common bases. In the Middle East palm sap, dates, grape juice, molasses and cereal are used in making arrack, raki and ouzo, which is usually flavoured with aniseed.

In Scandinavia and northern Germany the local spirit is akvavit or schnapps, grain or potato distillates sometimes flavoured with caraway, and Mexico has tequila from agave juice.

Sugar-producing countries make rum, and wine-producing countries make grape brandies (from wine) and grappa or marc (from pressed skins and pips). In parts of France, *eau de vie* are still made from holly berries, sorb apples, sloe stones and wild blackberries.

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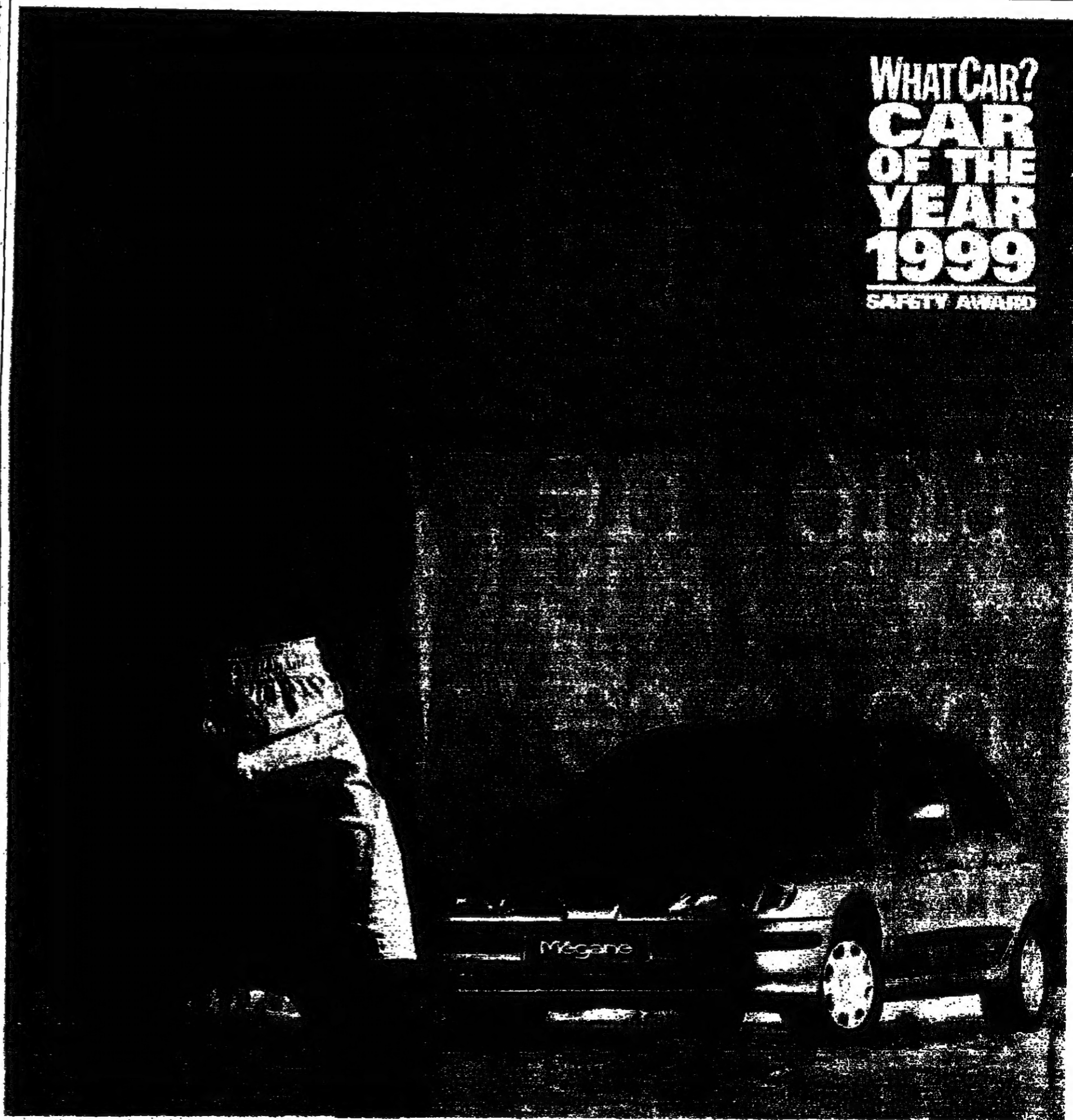
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'Chinese stole US missile secrets'

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

THE United States Government is investigating charges that China stole nuclear secrets that enabled it to make massive leaps in the development of its nuclear arsenal.

The theft may have started as long ago as the 1980s and allowed China to improve weapons that had been a generation behind American missiles. As the Government confirmed the inquiry, it faced accusations that it had been slow to act on the allegations because of political sensitivities.

The federal authorities are investigating whether China used secrets stolen from the

Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico to produce small warheads that could be launched from a single missile at multiple targets.

The *New York Times* reported that the spying was believed to have happened in the mid-1980s but was not detected until 1995, when analysis of Chinese nuclear-missile tests found similarities to America's most-advanced miniature warhead, the W88.

"Currently there is an ongoing investigation to determine if there was criminal conduct, and we continue to assess the implications for national security."



President Clinton with his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin, during a 1997 summit news conference in Washington. The White House reportedly knew of the spy claims but tried to minimise them to ensure success at the talks

David Leavy, the White House National Security Council spokesman, said. But Tang Jiaxuan, the Chinese Foreign Minister, decried the allegations yesterday as baseless. He also warned Washington against placing Taiwan under a missile-defence umbrella, saying it would harm chances

of a peaceful reunification. But Clinton Administration sources said that a Chinese-American suspect was identified at the US Energy Department's weapons laboratory in Los Alamos in 1996. It was not until this year that he was given a lie-detector test, which one official said he failed. He was not

arrested, but last week was again questioned.

Officials said President Clinton was first told in 1997 that information may have been stolen in the mid-1980s by Chinese agents. But critics said the inquiry was delayed because the discoveries came as the Clinton White House was

strengthening its links with China in the run-up to the President Jiang's visit to America in 1997 and Mr Clinton's China tour last year. Moreover, it came as Congress was investigating charges that Beijing had secretly funnelled money to the Democrats in the 1996 presidential campaign.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Thirty immigrants drown off Florida

Miami: In one of the worst immigrant smuggling disasters off the Florida coast, the US Coast Guard yesterday called off the search for more than 30 Haitians lost at sea after two overloaded boats sank on Saturday (David Adams writes). Three survivors told US officials that one of the two boats suffered mechanical problems about 30 miles east of West Palm Beach. When the second boat went to help, both ended up sinking. Neither boat had life jackets.

"It just reiterates the danger that's involved in smuggling," said Ron LaBrec, a Coast Guard spokesman. "These people leave in small boats that are generally unseaworthy, overcrowded and lacking in even the most basic safety gear." The tragedy comes after another smuggling incident in December when 13 Cubans drowned after a 29ft boat sank in 6ft seas about 20 miles south of Miami. Already this year, 587 Haitians and 406 Cubans have been intercepted off the US coast.

Uganda suspends treks

Kampala: The Ugandan Government has suspended treks to the habitat of rare gorillas after the murders last week of eight tourists, including four Britons, by Hutu rebels. The month-long suspension covers visits to both the Bwindi National Park, where the tourists were killed, and Mgahinga National Park, which is further south, as part of a mourning period, according to a directive from Brigadier Moses Ali, the Minister for Tourism, Trade and Industry. (AFP)

Estonians go to polls

Tallinn: Estonians voted in a general election expected to produce a centrist coalition which will lead the country to European Union membership while attempting to kickstart a stalled economy. Though much is at stake, turnout appeared to be low. Opinion polls point to no clear winner. The 860,000 eligible voters were faced with a dizzying field when polls opened — 12 parties and 1,885 candidates, nearly 19 for each of the 101 parliamentary seats. (Reuters)

Versace 'HIV positive'

New York: A post-mortem examination of Gianni Versace, right, has revealed that the murdered fashion designer was hiding the fact that he was HIV positive, a book claims (James Bone writes). Maureen Orth writes in *Vulgar Favourites*, an account of Andrew Cunanan's five killings across America in 1997, that Versace, a victim, concealed the diagnosis because he was seeking a stock market listing for his fashion empire.



India air crash kills 21

Delhi: An Indian Air Force Antonov 32 transport aircraft crashed outside the capital, killing 21 people — India's second air disaster in 48 hours. On Friday night an Air France cargo plane ploughed into a Madras runway, bursting into flames. All five people on board survived. The Antonov exploded after crashing on to a building site, sending burning fragments flying into workers' huts. Eighteen servicemen were among the dead. (Reuters)

Serbs fight for Brcko

Banja Luka: Milorad Dodik, the outgoing Bosnian Serb Prime Minister, urged an emergency session of parliament not to accept a Western ruling that failed to award the northern town of Brcko to the Serb republic. Mr Dodik resigned on Friday in protest at the international arbitration tribunal decision. Hard-line and moderate deputies threatened to suspend their participation in the country's state parliament over the issue. (Reuters)

Crash singer 'critical'

Franklin, Tennessee: The country singer George Jones was in a critical condition after his car crashed into a bridge near his home while he was talking on a mobile phone to his stepdaughter. Jones, 67, lost control while rounding a bend in the road, state police said, adding that he was not wearing a seat belt. Jones is famous for hits such as *He Stopped Loving Her Today* and *The Race is On*. (AP)

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Pol Pot's Butcher to face Cambodia trial

Ta Mok may be Khmer Rouge scapegoat, writes James Pringle in Beijing

TA MOK — Grandfather Mok — the last Khmer Rouge leader at large and perhaps the most brutal, was in custody in Phnom Penh last night amid indications that he would be put on trial as a scapegoat for all the sins of the murderous group, so letting other former leaders off the hook.

Charismatic and ruthless, Mok, known as "The Butcher", was a clever military man who took charge of bloody purges for the late Pol Pot. Unlike other Khmer Rouge leaders, he was a former peasant not a Paris-educated intellectual. He and his men carried out the purges, eliminating real or imagined enemies of "Angkor", the sinister organisation that ruled Cambodia when the Khmer Rouge was in power — all at the behest of Pol Pot, whom he later betrayed.

Government officials, casting doubt on the likelihood of any Khmer Rouge leader facing an international court, said that Mok, arrested on Saturday, apparently on Thailand's northern border with Cambodia, would be prosecuted by a Cambodian court under Cambodian law. Khieu Kanharith, a government spokesman,

said that it was unlikely Mok would be sent to an international tribunal after that. Observers said that the domestic conviction of the most notorious remaining Khmer Rouge leader might stall the push for an international trial for other leaders such as "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan, an intellectual who wrote the blueprint for the Khmer Rouge agrarian revolution that led to the deaths of 1.7 million Cambodians between 1975 and 1979. Both surrendered and were treated to a luxury tour of Cambodia by Hun Sen, the Prime Minister, before returning to the Khmer Rouge's former headquarters at Pailin, where they live in relative comfort.



Khmer Rouge regime left 1.7 million people dead

A team of United Nations jurists has recommended that 20 to 30 former Khmer Rouge be brought before an international tribunal for crimes against humanity and genocide. But, despite mounting calls for such a tribunal, Mr Sen — a former junior Khmer Rouge officer who broke away in 1977 — has urged caution, saying attempts to bring the leaders to trial could end the first period of peace Cambodia has known for 30 years. "Mok is to be made a scapegoat

for all the rest," said one Cambodian analyst.

In Pailin recently other former leaders said that, while they should not be tried for genocide because they had repented, Ta Mok should, as he was a hardliner. "All the people here in Pailin welcome the news of the Government's arrest of Ta Mok," a former Khmer Rouge official said last night.

Mok has only one leg, having lost the other in a tractor accident, not to through a mine. Yet he took care of his fighters who had been similarly maimed and for this his men, as one told this correspondent, "would do anything for him". He would, however, dispose of his enemies, often by poisoning.

Mok has maintained good relations with Thai military men in northeast Thailand, and used a vehicle with Thai military plates, bought rice for his troops there and had several safe houses.

Last year he seemed on the point of handing over Pol Pot to the Phnom Penh Government but, hearing this on Liberation Radio, the Khmer Rouge station, Pol Pot took his own life — unless, of course, he was poisoned by Mok.



Ta Mok, known as The Butcher but inspiring devotion among his men, at a Khmer Rouge base in Cambodia in April last year.

Bomb blast at theatre kills six in Bangladesh

FROM AHMED FAZL IN DHAKA

TWO powerful bombs activated by a timing device destroyed part of a crowded theatre in western Bangladesh yesterday, leaving six people dead and 100 injured. The explosions spread panic through the garrison town of Jessore, on the India-Bangladesh border, 170 miles west of the capital, Dhaka.

Bazur Rahman, the local police chief, said: "The two bombs, believed planted by Islamic extremists, were hidden under a stage erected for the performing artists." One of the dead was a woman participant.

The performance had been organised by Uddichi, a leading anti-fundamentalist cultural group which has been the target of attacks by militant Muslim clerics.

The bombing came ahead of a political rally in Dhaka yesterday addressed by Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister, to mark the 28th anniversary of Bangladesh's declaration of independence.

Pressure grows on Japan to unmask its war criminals

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

GRUESOME medical experiments conducted on prisoners by the Japanese during the Second World War are behind mounting pressure on Tokyo to reopen a vast military archive and so help to identify surviving war criminals.

As many as 10,000 POWs may have been victims of atrocities masterminded by General Shiro Ishii, commander of the Japanese Imperial Army's germ warfare division — Unit 731. Yet despite casualty numbers 12 times those of the Nazi Dr Josef Mengele, no Unit 731 veterans have been brought to justice.

Details of one of the war's darkest chapters were broadcast on US television last night in a documentary likely to cause as much embarrassment to American officials as to Japanese. Not for the first time, Americans were accused of covering up the scale of General Ishii's activities in return for acquiring his research results for the Pentagon's germ warfare programme.

Unit 731's nightmare in Manchuria, recounted how General Ishii began using anthrax, typhus and other deadly pathogens against Chinese soldiers in Manchuria in the 1930s. It also contained inter-

views with US survivors of Japanese prison camps there.

The film was based heavily on research by Sheldon Harris, a Californian history professor, who placed together details of Unit 731's activities from Chinese and Soviet records for a 1994 book, *Faces of Death*. The book, containing claims of prisoners being infected with germs and dissected alive, will be published in Japan this spring.

Professor Harris found no proof that Allied prisoners were subjected to the tortures, and it is known that some 100,000 Chinese soldiers bore the brunt. But last night's film alleged for the first time that there were American victims.

The US Justice Department has the names of more than 60,000 suspected German war criminals, all barred from entering the country. But only 100 suspected Japanese war criminals are known.

www.usdoj.gov/office/press/records.htm — A timeline of Japan's germ warfare programme with links to other sites
www.scripps.edu/~jshiro/731.htm — Information on Unit 731 from the Advocacy & Intelligence Index for Prisoners of War and Those Missing in Action

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Colosseum's animal magic was high art

THE Hollywood image of the Colosseum as a bare, sandy arena covered with the blood of wild beasts, gladiators and martyred Christians is largely mistaken, according to a team of German and Italian archaeologists who have spent three years studying the amphitheatre's underground chambers and corridors.

Heinz Beste, a German archaeologist, and Rossella Rea, an Italian archaeologist, say that the Colosseum was in fact "the greatest theatre of ancient times", able to stage "sumptuous entertainments" thanks to a highly sophisticated mechanism of moveable scenery and a complex system of hidden lifts, hoists and pulleys.

The result, Herr Beste said, was a daily programme of "spectacular shows". They did involve bloodshed, but not in the form of "duels to the death", which were a late-night speciality. Romans attending shows during the day were shown "amazing special effects" involving hundreds of actors and exotic animals. "It was a form of propaganda," Signora Rea said.

The aim was to impress Ro-

Rome's arena provided more theatre than bloodshed, writes Richard Owen

mans with the empire's foreign conquests by displaying the flora and fauna of Africa and Asia in a colourful piece of theatre. "It seems films such as *Quo Vadis* got it wrong," said *Il Messaggero*.

The Colosseum was commissioned in AD72 by the Emperor Vespasian (AD69-79), a professional soldier who despised his deranged and megalomaniac predecessor, Nero. Vespasian drained Nero's artificial lake and built the Colosseum on the site (a golden Colossus of Nero that stood nearby gave the amphitheatre its name).

Faced with Travertine marble, it seated 55,000 spectators, and was inaugurated in AD80 by Vespasian's son, the Emperor Titus, with an opening festival lasting 100 days. It became

a ruin in medieval times, but restoration a hundred years ago revealed the structures beneath the arena.

The building is being further renovated for the millennium, at a cost of £15 million. Herr Beste said that the current restoration had enabled experts to examine the remaining structures "centimetre by centimetre". They had found evidence that the arena was covered with 3,588 square yards of wooden flooring, underneath which were sloping ramps operated by winches, each moved by eight slaves.

There was also evidence of a "dense network" of lifts behind the podium, with one placed every 3.5 yards and 24 giant trapdoors in the stage. The ramps and lifts would have produced hundreds of actors and animals "as if by magic".

The archaeologists said mornings and afternoons were devoted to animal shows, with gladiator fights only taking place late in the evening. In a typical daytime performance, spectators would have seen a "grove of palms and trees, rocky hills, pools, pavil-



The Hollywood image of the Colosseum, as depicted in *Quo Vadis* with Peter Ustinov playing Nero, has now been questioned by archaeologists

lions and colonnaded buildings" against a vividly painted backdrop. The stage would gradually fill with bears, wolves, lynxes, and wild boar, then lions, panthers, crocodiles, camels and elephants, "beasts which Romans had only seen in mosaics".

Signora Rea said that fights to the death were staged, both between hunters and animals, and between the animals themselves. "But many were trained and looked after, as in modern circuses", and animal fights were eventually banned altogether in AD523.

Adriano La Regina, the Superintendent of Archaeology, said that the stage machinery as re-created by the German-Italian team according to descriptions of spectacles witnessed by writers such as Martial and Suetonius, and there were plans to reconstruct the

lifts and trap doors to stage shows in the Colosseum for the millennium - "but without the bloodshed".

He said that accounts of the Colosseum being flooded to stage mock sea battles were probably mistaken, however, since the elaborate under-

ground mechanisms would have been damaged. The "sea battles" are now thought to have taken place across the Tiber, in a water-filled arena built by the Emperor Augustus (27BC-AD14), now buried beneath the streets of the Trastevere quarter.

Colonel robs bank for his savings

FROM ALICE LAGNADO IN MOSCOW

A FORMER colonel robbed a Moscow bank this week after his \$20,000 (£12,000) life savings were wiped out by Russia's financial collapse.

Dmitri Setrakov, 66, walked into the Bank Rossijski Kredit on Tverskaya Ulitsa, Moscow's equivalent of Oxford Street, at 10am on Friday with a hunting rifle and took the chief accountant hostage. He also threatened to blow up the bank. Terrified bank staff handed him the money in cash before he was arrested. No one was injured in the hold-up.

According to a report in the *Kommersant* newspaper, Colonel Setrakov's wife was seriously ill and needed the money for an operation. Colonel Setrakov had been trying to get at his money since September, using more traditional methods, but without success. His desperate move

struck a chord with thousands of other Russians who lost their life savings or had them decimated when the country sank into financial crisis in August.

Even the police said they sympathised with the colonel. "People don't resolve to do such things without reason. He did the right thing, since banks will not give out money," a spokeswoman told the *Moscow Times*.

Those Russians who did have bank accounts were brave indeed. The banking system is not well established in Russia, with hundreds of banks to choose from and no way to tell how reliable they are. Many people still keep their money under the mattress at home.

This is the second such attempt the bank has seen. In December, Aleksandr Shreiber, 39, took three members of staff

hostage while demanding his savings be returned. He surrendered after an hour.

There have been numerous other stories of similar hold-ups in other parts of Russia as people have turned to violence to try to get back what is theirs.

Others turned the violence in on themselves with several cases of pensioners hanging themselves. One of the saddest cases was that of Pavel Yulayev, 77, who collapsed and died at a bank in the Mordovia region in September when he saw that his savings had been frozen.

An estimated 32,000 Muscovites have sued banks, with some success: about 5 per cent of cases have been won, though judges are often paid off by bankers to prevent money from being handed over.

Anna Blundy, page 20

Kurds claim attack on helicopter

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL



Ecevit hopes to capitalise on rebel leader's capture

AS Bulent Ecevit, Turkey's Prime Minister, and members of his Cabinet toured the country's southeast yesterday, boasting of gaining the upper hand in the war with Kurdish guerrillas, rebels claimed to have shot down an army helicopter, killing 20 soldiers.

The Germany-based Kurdish news agency DEM said all perished on the helicopter in the southeastern province of Hakkari, the latest strike in the war for autonomy that the rebels vowed would increase after the capture of their leader, Abdullah Ocalan. The military would not comment.

In the city of Diyarbakir,

Mr Ecevit and his Cabinet discussed a regional aid package with officials. There were no meetings with local businessmen, who had been warned by the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) to stay away.

The £70 million package is designed to encourage investment in a part of the country where the economy has been caught in the crossfire between security forces and the PKK. The Government hopes to capitalise in forthcoming elections on Mr Ocalan's capture in Kenya nearly three weeks ago.

With workers on the prison island of Inirali building a spe-

cial courthouse to try Mr Ocalan, security forces across the country are on alert.

Earlier, Mr Ecevit said that police had detained a suspect in a car bombing last Friday in Cankiri, a town north of Ankara. A regional governor was seriously injured. Three people, including two girls, died.

□ Bonn Mr Ocalan blames Kenya for handing him over to Turkey, a lawyer said in a magazine interview published today. "He said he was not captured by Turkish forces but handed over by the Kenyans," said Ahmet Zeki Okcuoglu, an Istanbul lawyer seeking to represent him. (AFP)

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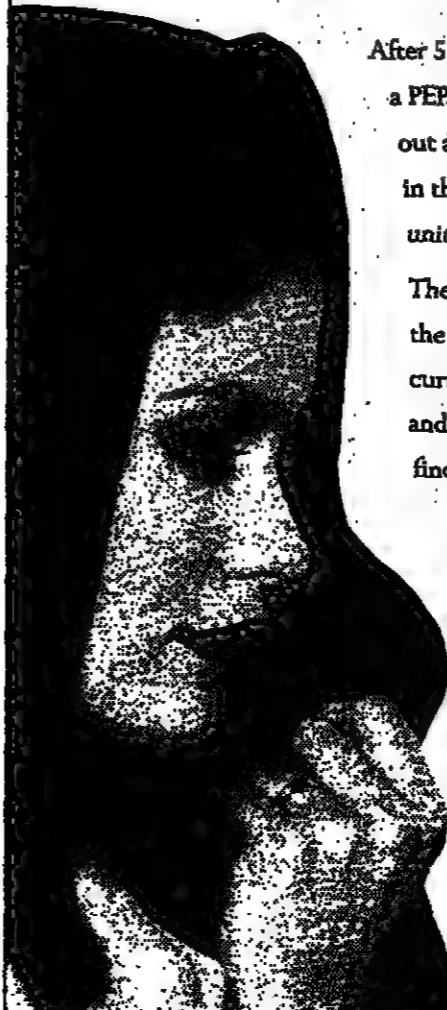
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on helicopter

week there are television documentaries about some aspects of the Third Reich. Indeed the constitution was created as a counterweight to the Nazi era and so comparisons are valid: the Gestapo did this, so we, having learnt our lesson, do the opposite. I also think it legitimate to compare joblessness with the mass unemployment of the 1930s since today's economic debate has prewar roots.

The war needs to be understood by new generations. Problems arise when it is treated as a music-hall joke and serious democratic politicians are portrayed as Nazi

AUSTRIA was reeling yesterday after Jörg Haider, leader of the far-right, neo-fascist Freedom Party, won a big lead in elections in the southern state of Carinthia.

The victory will for the first time make it the dominant political party in any of the nine states. Exit polls indicated that the Social Democrats, led nationally by Viktor Klima, the Chancellor, were at 32 per cent, which could cost them the majority they have enjoyed since 1945.

Nine years ago Herr Haider was forced to quit as Governor of the state after he praised Hitler's job policies. His success will be seen by many as a resurgence of neo-Nazism.

The right-wing Herr Haider's campaign mascot is a bear called Kenny, adopted by the politician and given sanctuary on his estate in Carinthia after farmers had threatened to shoot the animal. Herr Haider has pledged to force recent citizens of the EU.

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A security official keeps guard over Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's tent in the grounds of Cairo's Qubba Palace

Gaddafi pitches for better deal

LIBYA'S maverick ruler, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, held more talks in Cairo yesterday to overcome the final obstacles on resolving the Lockerbie saga (Christopher Walker writes).

The dictator, spending a week in Egypt for talks on a range of issues besides Lockerbie, has erected a tent in the grounds of Qubba Palace for his accommodation. It will also be used as a venue for meetings.

Yesterday he met Esnet Abdel Meguid, the Egyptian-born head of the Arab League, to discuss guarantees and procedures over the handover of two Libyan

suspects to stand trial, under Scottish law, in The Netherlands. Britain and America, whose citizens were among the majority of the 270 victims who died in the bombed plane over Lockerbie, have imposed a 30-day deadline for their handover.

Arab officials said the Libyan leader was continuing to seek guarantees that the two Libyan intelligence agents would receive a fair trial and that their handover would be matched by an immediate end to the crippling United Nations economic sanctions imposed on Libya since 1992.

Son takes over in Bahrain on death of Emir

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

FOR the second time in a few weeks, a crucial Western ally in the Middle East has seen the smooth transition of power from father to son, this time in the Gulf state of Bahrain, whose ruler, Sheikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa, 66, died of a heart attack at the weekend.

As in the recent transfer of power in Jordan after the death of King Hussein, the Sheikh's Sandhurst-trained eldest son, Crown Prince Hamad, was sworn in as the new Emir of the small oil-rich island which has played a key role in US and British policy in the region for many years and which is linked by a causeway to Saudi Arabia.

Although Sheikh Hamad, like the new King Abdullah II of Jordan, is primarily an army man, he has had more experience in the day-to-day running of the country.

Bahrain is home to the biggest US naval base in the region and its ruler died shortly after talks with William Cohen, the US Secretary for Defence, who was on a visit. Sheikh Isa offered facilities to the US Navy, discreetly at first because of popular resentment against a foreign military presence, then openly during and after the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

He also allowed the use of Bahrain airfields by British and American planes. After the Gulf War, he travelled to Washington to sign a security pact with the US.

The new Emir was already commander-in-chief of the armed forces, having been responsible for their rapid build-up recently, including the recruitment of mercenaries from Jordan and Pakistan with a reputation for brutality.

He takes over at a time

when the Sunni Muslim ruling family is embroiled in a long-running conflict with militant members of the Shia Muslim majority, who comprise about 65 per cent of the 580,000 population, live mostly in poor villages outside the gleaming capital, Manama, and have been encouraged in their campaign of unrest by the mullahs in Tehran.

The religious differences have been exacerbated by the late Emir's decision in 1975 — after a two-year experiment in democracy — to dissolve the National Assembly and suspend the Constitution.

Western governments have largely turned a blind eye to the heavy-handed tactics of the Bahraini security forces in what has often come to resemble a guerrilla war.

Obituary, page 23



Sheikh Hamad receiving condolences in Manama yesterday on the death of his father, Sheikh Isa. He was sworn in as the new Emir of Bahrain on the same day

Talks on Lebanon pullout

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, yesterday sent a special envoy to Paris for discussions on the terms for an Israeli withdrawal from the buffer zone it occupies in south Lebanon. Israeli army radio reported.

The trip appeared to have been organised by the Prime Minister after Salim Hoss, his Lebanese counterpart, indicated in a BBC interview at the weekend that, if Israel withdrew from south Lebanon, his Government would prevent cross-border attacks by Islamic and Palestinian guerrillas.

The future of the costly Israeli military presence in the nine-mile-wide buffer zone has emerged as a prime issue in the May 17 general election after the recent killing of seven more Israelis there, including a brigadier-general, and a pledge by the main opposition candidate, Ehud Barak, the Labour leader, to "bring the boys home" within 12 months if he is elected.

Mr Netanyahu would not confirm the report that he had sent his top diplomatic adviser, Uzi Arad, to France for talks on the situation. "I prefer not to give details about our diplomatic contacts," he said.

The radio did not say when Mr Arad left or who he planned to meet in Paris.

Damascus to rearm Saddam

By MICHAEL EYAN, DEFENCE EDITOR

A SECRET deal has been agreed between Syria and Iraq for the supply of military equipment to Baghdad, according to Middle East intelligence sources.

Relations between the two countries have been improving significantly in recent months, with agreements already signed to develop both political and economic co-operation.

Now, after a new deal between the Syrian and Iraqi intelligence services, military equipment valued at about \$60 million is to be shipped across the border, the intelligence sources said.

Since the 1991 Gulf War, President Saddam Hussein has faced a severe shortage of spare parts for his army because of the international arms embargo. Under the Damascus agreement, Syrian spare parts for military equipment would be converted for use by the Iraqi Army, the sources said. The parts would include engines for Russian-made tanks and tracks for armoured fighting vehicles.

Syria is also expected to supply spares for anti-aircraft radar facilities — hit by recent American and British bombing — lorries, aircraft and helicopters, and ammunition.

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The new philanthropists

Millionaire Torquil Norman and heiress Sabrina Guinness are both dedicated to helping disadvantaged children. Grace Bradberry and Vanora Bennett report

WHEN this decade began, there was much talk about the caring, sharing Nineties. With the country mired in recession and individuals scrambling to look after themselves, it sounded like empty Zeitgeist rhetoric. Yet with the millennium upon us, there are signs that this has indeed become a more caring, sharing decade.

Over the past ten years, there has been a general realisation that the welfare state cannot solve all society's ills. Rather than locking the front door and blocking their minds, however, people seem more inclined to embrace social problems as their own.

Those who are "getting involved" do not necessarily support new Labour. Yet whatever you think of the arrogance and spin of the Blair project, there is no doubt that at its heart lies a social conscience. In this the Government and its People are one. We have rejected both the notion that the poor should help themselves, and that of handouts, in favour of an inclusive society where the haves and have-nots work together for a better community.

Companies are not just giving to charity, they are also involving their employees. Accountants painting hostels would have been unheard of in the Eighties. Individuals, too, have ceased to view charitable giving as a way to save the conscience while improving their tax position. They want to do something. "Social Entrepreneurs", identified by Charles Leadbeater in a 1997 Demos report, take under-utilised resources and use them to satisfy unmet social needs. Such people give the lie to Margaret Thatcher's observation that "no one would remember the Good Samaritan if he'd had only good intentions. He had money as well."

We are also seeing the rise of the "new philanthropists", who prove that an entrepreneurial spirit and a social conscience are not incompatible. Torquil Norman exemplifies the breed. Having built a £100 million company from nothing, he is now putting both his money and his time into a visionary project.

Crane-like, Torquil Norman stoops towards the mop of dark hair. "Are you playing that?" he asks, curious at the musical talents of the small boy with his miniature organ. The child, who is Bulgarian and part of a travelling circus family, doesn't answer, but smiles instead. Norman smiles, too, straightens his 6ft 7in frame and looks around him at the shadowy grandeur of the Camden Roundhouse, in North London.

Norman, 66, is a man who could as soon ignore a child as perform acrobatics on the steel drums suspended above his head. He made his fortune from "Kids", as he calls them, setting up Bluebird Toys in the Eighties and becoming one of that decade's most successful entrepreneurs. Now, as the saying goes, he is "giving something back", and the Roundhouse is part of his gift.

The day we meet, his acquisition seems a quiet, gloomy but momentous mental place. A door at the back has been forced open. There are padlocks to keep people out. But it won't be like this for much longer. Already it has been filled with the sounds of 100 young people taking part in a workshop run by *Stomp*, a theatrical troupe that makes music from dustbin lids. Soon, Norman hopes, it will be filled with young people not only making music but also producing videos and films, learning multimedia skills, designing clothes and using recording studios — a purpose-designed training centre for 13 to 20-year-olds. It

amounts to a hugely ambitious philanthropic scheme, but Norman has that rare ability to make ambitious schemes work. Throughout his life he has embarked on risky ventures and daring adventures, driven by the personal motto "if in doubt, do it". The *New Yorker* magazine described him as "the last buccaneer", and despite his languorous manner, there is more than a touch of derring-do about him.

He has rescued and flown vintage planes that others deemed too dangerous. He founded a £100 million toy company, opening a factory in a recession. And now he has bought the Roundhouse, an historic building left alone by more circumspect individuals. Constructed by Robert Stephenson as an engine maintenance shed, the Roundhouse was a legendary venue of the Sixties and Seventies. Yet for the past 20 years it has been more or less neglected, gathering grime on the chalk farm road. Norman's motivation is not so much to save the building as the young people who live in its environs.

"I never thought I'd be driven by any emotional feeling in this sort of way," he admits. "But I've felt that throughout my life young people have got a worse and worse deal." In marketing, focus groups, he noticed that it was "the gritty little sods who weren't especially clever who had lots of the best ideas", and became determined to help them to get on in life. Rich, but not that rich, he has pledged a £6.2 million trust fund to the centre. To realise the



Torquil Norman, the entrepreneur who has pledged a £6.2 million trust fund to turn Camden's Roundhouse into a purpose-designed training centre for 13 to 20-year-olds

dream, £10 million is needed from other sources. Norman believes the funding will come through. "You've got to believe," he says. But there is no guarantee that the Lottery Commission and Arts Council will say yes. If they don't, "I can't tell you what we'll do", he adds.

The project is not, however, a black hole for cash. The renovation has been conceived with commercial as well as charitable uses in mind. An extra level will be inserted below a glass roof, and art exhibitions, product launches and jazz events will take place there. There are even hopes for a Roundhouse record label. The undercroft, with its network of brick walls radiating from the centre like spokes, is to be converted into a series of studios.

Meanwhile, Norman is seeking sponsorship for his latest epic flight. In July he will pilot a Thirties de Havilland DH85 Leopard Moth

from England to the American airbase of Oshkosh. It is likely to be a hazardous trip, but Norman is driven by an obsession rooted in his childhood. His father was Sir Henry Nigel St Valery Norman, a talented architect and courageous aviator, who built London's first airport, then started up the airborne services during the Second World War with Lieutenant-General Frederick (Boy) Browning. Sir Nigel died in 1943, on a flight to North Africa. Torquil, 10, had not seen his father for three years previously, having been evacuated to America.

The flying bug had already entered Norman's soul. When he was a child his father built "a little pedal car in the shape of an aeroplane. On the side it said, GWAAP. It meant 'God Willing And Weather Permitting'." He and his brothers befriended a test pilot at the local airbase who would take them up.

He was educated at Eton, where he became Head of Boats, and President of Pop, the elite group of boys who "ran" the school. He joined the Fleet Air Arm as a naval pilot. Despite being three inches over the height limitation, he managed to deceive the petty officer who measured him by bending his knees inside his bell-bottoms. After National Service he followed his father and brothers into 601 Squadron and New Meteors. "My legs were three inches too long — if I'd had to use the ejector seat, it would have knocked my legs off."

As for the motivation for these activities, "I'm sure everything was to do with my father", he says. He actively sought to be sent to Korea, but the war ended three weeks before he set out. His mother persuaded him to go to Cambridge instead. Afterwards he took a banking job in New York and met his

wife, Anne Montagu, who was parachuting at the same airbase. Despite this heavy activity, she is an artist who trained at the Slade alongside Lucian Freud.

Norman left banking and went into industry, but in 1979 he was ousted from the board of Berwick Timpo, the toy company he had turned round. At 46 he was unemployed with five children. While lying in the bath one day, he came up with the idea for The Big Yellow Teapot, a plastic playhouse with a lid that turned. Unable to bear the idea of someone else developing his idea, he started Bluebird Toys. The company went public in 1985 and he retired in the early Nineties.

He says, half-jokingly, that he started the charitable trust because of his wife's profligacy. "My wife used to give my overdraft to good causes faster than I could keep up with it." He divided up everything

he had, directing a proportion of it to a charitable trust. When he made his fortune, so did the trust.

Norman is not one of those people who thinks that all youngsters would benefit from leaping out of aircraft simply because he did. The spirit of adventure "has something to do with how your genes are put together", he suggests. "But I do know one thing about young people, which is that they have an infinite capacity for ideas. They should all have the chance to show commitment. The thing that gets you out of a lot of holes, it seems to me, is enthusiasm and the willingness to stick at things."

"You simply can't say that they aren't totally redeemable."

GB

Leading article, page 21

'I am just lucky to have something I love doing'

The cameraman is arguing with a producer. Other production staff are poring over schedules. As he waits for the day's celebrity visitor, a nervous presenter is trying out his questions. It is just like a real TV studio, in fact — except that all the workers are teenagers or younger.

Children as young as eight scurry up and down the stairs of a former car salesroom in West London, purposeful and motivated as they absorb the basics of TV production.

Somewhere in the bustle a slim blonde with a slightly distracted air can be seen waiting about on an endless round of problem-solving. This is Sabrina Guinness, first known as

a society beauty, later a Hollywood film-maker, and, for the past five years, the founder and director of Youth Cable Television (YCTV).

"Every day is different," says Guinness. "It's exciting. Young people today should be given a voice; they seem to be the focus of so much attention, from the public and from politicians, but are we listening enough to them?"

For those aged from 18 down to 11, and for "Kids' Club" members from 8 to 12, Guinness's training project has proved a godsend. Most of the 300 children on the books are from three "tough" estates around Ladbroke Grove, North Kensington, a transitional district where extremes of wealth cross over with extremes of deprivation, where tower blocks and prefabricated housing intersect with gentrified Georgian stucco, and where crime, drugs and unemployment are among the possible fates awaiting young people.

"My family like it that I come here," says 18-year-old Kae Iden, who is between two college courses and has become one of the project's star scriptwriters. "They see I'm doing something good, not like, you know, I'm out there in the streets trying to rob people." He laughs self-deprecatingly.

Guinness, 43, is trying to arrange funding for one of Kae's scripts, a "Train-spotterised" version of *Oliver Twist*, to make it into a feature film. "I've seen the positive changes in these young people," she says. "That's what I love most — the positive outcome."

The idea for the project grew out of Guinness's enthusiasm for work she had done in her Los Angeles days, encouraging youths from urban gangs — who had fought each other in riots in 1992 — to perform together and make friends.

The English equivalent that Guinness set up, however, was not based on performance training but on encouraging training but on encouraging her new charges to gain techni-



Sabrina Guinness, the founder and director of Youth Cable Television, in Kensington

cal skills in making TV. Using her well-stocked contacts book, Guinness raised enough funding to start training local children in 1994. Their car-salesroom home was converted into a TV studio in three days. The first programmes went on air in 1995 on a local cable channel, Cable & Wireless 60.

Philanthropy is an unorthodox career path for a woman who once dated the Prince of Wales and seemed destined for an heiress's lifestyle. Guinness is dismissive of questions about her past, as she is about the interpretation sometimes put on her work — that she is a latterday Lady Bountiful dispensing charity to the poor.

"Prince Charles was 20 years ago; it's not relevant," she says calmly. "The fact that I then worked in the film business was incredibly useful. I got to know how it works and I got to know some of the peo-

ple, so that couldn't be better. "As far as Lady Bountiful goes, I just consider myself lucky to have found something I love doing. I love the creative process of film-making and I love children, and I've managed to put the two together. It's good to get up in the morning and want to go to work."

"If your name is Guinness, you're branded. That can irritate me, because it stems from not looking into what I'm doing here. But I've accepted it."

Four years on, the studio is putting together three half-hour slots a day, with chat shows, music and movie programmes, interviews and pieces made by the Kids' Club. "What is attractive about it is that Sabrina brings her own juice to it," says Tulip Tuitt, YCTV's new executive producer. "She knows a lot of people. She provides us with many short cuts. Plus, we have charitable status. That, and the

young people who are so interested in TV, is an exciting combination." One of the lures for local kids is the star-studded guest list. Harrison Ford, Mel C and Chris Smith are among those interviewed at YCTV.

Children who have been sidelined academically at school can find a fresh start here, learning such techniques as film editing or animation. "We had one person who was excluded from school when he was 14 and was in here for the next three years. Now he's a good editor," says Tuitt.

YCTV, which offers children a free induction course and then lets them specialise in the area of TV for which they have the most talent, is more than a social safety valve. It equips them with skills, confidence and exposure to TV culture, which will help them into jobs in the

media. A dozen or so members have moved on to college or jobs in the TV industry. "We hope that in the future we will be able to put more people into jobs, but TV is very white-dominated, very Oxbridge-dominated," says Tuitt.

However, YCTV is not the only project bringing the media to the youth of North Kensington. The area, which is near Notting Hill, the media elite's home of choice in West London, is the easy-access target for magnets with big hearts. Also operating near by are the North Kensington Video and Drama Project and Massive Videos, and several youth clubs with film and photography equipment.

"In a way, kids around here are spoilt for choice. They're calm, almost blasé, about celebrities," says Leah Drane, 25, YCTV's welfare officer. To give access to the facilities to teenagers in less well-served districts, she has spent time broadening the catchment areas. Many of the members come from East and South London or farther afield.

"Having lots of people from the media, who can help, living in the borough is a big advantage," says Guinness. "The young people who come here in term-time are mostly local. But in the holidays we get people from all over England."

As its technical expertise grows, YCTV makes its own programmes and works on commissions for TV companies. BBC Choice, Carlton Digital and Disney are talking to Guinness. Sky recently put up funding for Tuitt's job. Raising the £300,000 a year needed to keep the studio going has been Guinness's biggest worry; but now, she says, TV companies are starting to recognise the value of a new source of ideas and workers.

"It's good now that TV companies are beginning to support us. It feels like we're growing up," she says.

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MILAN FASHION WEEK



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MARNI



JIL SANDER

FASHION DIARY

THE power of the accessory was demonstrated in Milan — first at Fendi. That the fashion crowd now eagerly attends this show rather than dreading it is almost entirely due to the success of Fendi's bags.

The first must-have was the Baguette, then came the Croissant — and last Thursday everyone wanted to see what would be next. There

were more lovely versions of the Baguette and the Croissant, and for those who cannot cram their belongings into either of these, there is a chunky new knitted Arran, ideal for those country walks.

It really is a case of Bag Wars. Not since 18th-century couriers placed their fake beauty spots according to their political allegiances has so much significance rested on something so insubstantial. But this season's bag is, without doubt, Gucci's Jacqueline — the ubiquitous squashy shoulder sack — which will not have gone unnoticed by Bernard Arnault, the head of LVMH, who is trying to increase his shares in Gucci and slip it in with the rest of his

portfolio, comprising Céline, Dior, Loewe, Louis Vuitton, Christian Lacroix and Givenchy.

M Arnault has said that he can make Gucci more profitable. But none of LVMH's fashion houses — not even Dior — has managed to come up with a must-have bag each season as Gucci has done.

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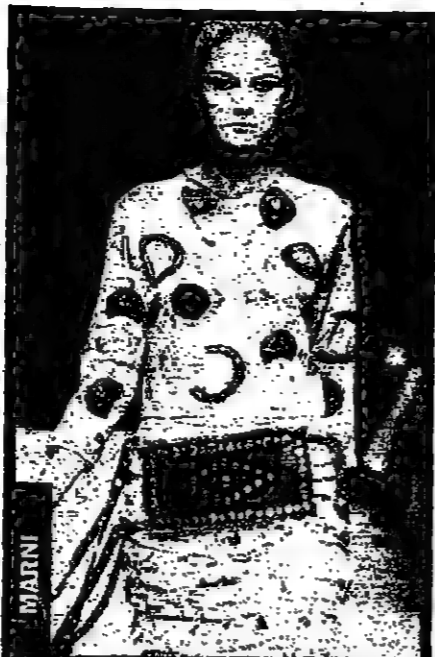
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CHANGING TIMES

مكتبة الأهل

MILAN FASHION WEEK

Sweeties, ditch those shoes



Ugly shoes are at the heart of winter's kitsch and country look. Photographs by Simon Walker

Everywhere you looked in Milan last week there was an example of monstrous footwear clomping down the catwalk. At Prada they came with spayed toes and heels in brilliant shades of orange or lime-green leather that had been tooled to look like plastic (and, boy, are we over that little trick). At Jil Sander, they were turquoise or olive plastic-leather; Armani grafted techno-rubber soles on to patent brogues; SportMax revived the stacked heel and Dolce & Gabbana came up with neon-coloured python boots with mirrored cuboid heels so that a girl can put her make-up on anytime, any place — very droll, until you looked at the flared toes. What is wrong with everyone?

Ugly footwear is fine, at high-street level, but at £200 a throw, it's a tedious little piece of perversity. The last time Prada produced a major shoe collection it didn't exactly fly out the stores.

Customers may have become inured to the aesthetic fallout of the trainer influence, but it was interesting to see the Miu Miu store, normally packed to the gunwales with fashion types eager to divest their wardrobes of bulky line, strangely empty. Maybe even Venice Prada cannot convince people that a fluorescent rubber, clod is desirable. Given that so many companies rely on the sale of accessories, the flight into hideous shoes comes very close

to shooting themselves in the foot.

You know there's trouble ahead when a designer as shrewd as Tom Ford admits:

"We're on the edge of fashion as we know it being really out of fashion. Most women I know — and this is a horrible thing to say as a designer — do not wear current clothing. Fashion has become so hyped... which we're partly to blame for." Sweeties, ditch those shoes.

Alas, they are at the heart of one of Milan's key looks for next winter, echoing those tricky late Sixties/early Seventies colours — mustard, orange, cowpat-brown and moss green — that defaced the catwalks, as well as the techno look pioneered by Helmut Lang. This urban-sport idea seemed refreshing at the time, but after six days of nylon, khaki, extraneous zips, important-looking flaps and "balalaikas" hoods, its charms are beginning to pall.

At Jil Sander's uncharacteristically unfocused show, wonderfully clever fabric techniques abounded — elastic rayon over silk fleece, gabardine coated with foam rubber, cotton glazed with chamois, stiff-looking felt coats — but much of it

looked like those depressing nylons that used to come from the Eastern bloc. The beautiful, tactile pieces she is known for were back in the showroom. This widespread urge to make dour clothes is curious.

Still, if Strenesse, Armani, Jil Sander and bits of Prada all got stuck in ersatz functionalism, others took the opposite approach and this is where national differences are charmingly illustrated.

In Britain a rural outfit translates into a decomposing jumper, a sagging pair of trousers with — if you're lucky — faint traces of corduroy and silage-caked wellies. In Italy, a rural outfit is a fringed leather coat lined with pashmina (Marini), a 28-ply cashmere loose-weave, funnel-necked sweater (MaxMara), some painstakingly aged flat leather boots (Tod's), a rosebud print top (SportMax), worn with a long, flared blanket skirt trimmed with

ric-rac and bound with animal-print ponyskin (Alberta Ferretti).

If MaxMara's rural idyll was conventional and comfortable, with long, gathered, tartan mohair skirts, duffel coats, detachable sheepskin linings and shaggy trims, SportMax was more than a little derivative of Marini in the way it mixed rosebuds with tweeds.

In fact, all week there was evidence that Marini is starting to make its influence felt. The problem is that Milanese quirkiness is often just a little too perfect.

Alberta Ferretti's *rustica*, meanwhile, was seductively pretty, apart from her enthusiastic use of a rather difficult brown. Embroidered sheepskins were combed to look like Afghan coats; hems were bonded rather than seamed; dresses were tied with ribbons and Native American beading decorated Wedgewood blue or camel felts.

Dolce & Gabbana recreated a "typical" Sicilian village that, needless to say, bore no resemblance to real life, unless there is a corner of Sicily where old peasants troll around in neon-beaded, plastic

raincoats or yellow mink micro-skirts. There were some beautiful embroidered chifon capri pants and jackets but also more than a little kitsch: designing a show to be photogenic is smart, omitting to include a single outfit that could be worn outside a Neapolitan nightclub might not be.

Inevitably, Prada turned the most thought-provoking spin on country life, playing off decorative rural touches against technical functionalism. Khaki chifon skirts, appliqued with oak leaves and scored through with zips, were worn with leggings and mesh corsets that were more urban-combat than *Dangerous Liaisons*. Miuccia Prada said that she was inspired by the English countryside.

There was a third way between *The Archers* and *Bladerunner*. No one does trashy in a classier way than Tom Ford. Gucci's paeon to LA rock-chick style featured skintight bell-bottoms, tiny, fringed leather tunics and jackets embellished with leather roses and trumpet-shaped sleeves. Ruched velvet pencil skirts and vertiginous, silver-spangled shoes marched down the catwalk with an Eighties swagger.

Yes, you had to be skinny to wear 99 per cent of it. And tall. But at least you felt it would be worth the effort. Ford declared it a backlash against utility. "All those backpacks, sneakers and utility jackets — throw all that crap out." Amen.



Lisa Armstrong FASHION EDITOR

TRENDS Chunky high heels; boots; rustic detailing; shaggy textures; fringing; ponyskin; appliqué; colours in mustard, mud, moss; leggings; duffel coats; fur linings; make-up: natural with emphasis on the eyes; hair artfully undone

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THE TIMES

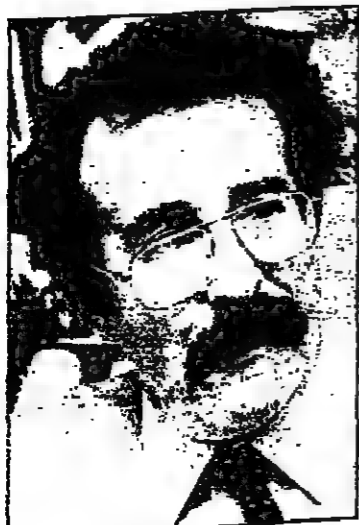
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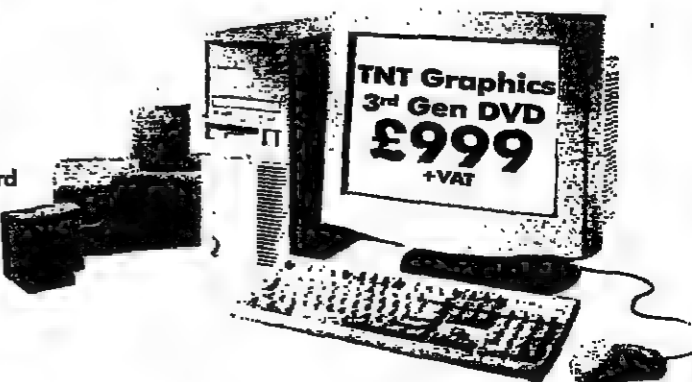
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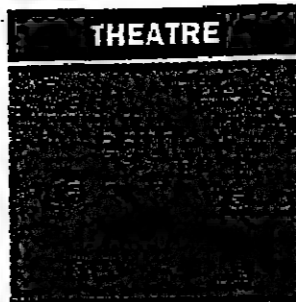
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OPERA
Crudity meets
kitsch in a
sad END show
THIS PAGE

THE TIMES ARTS



Yale reopens its key Anglo file

Paul Mellon's recent death robbed us of an outstanding benefactor, whose enthusiasm for British art transformed its representation in his native America. But Mellon's legacy is set to endure, above all in the great museum he founded and endowed at Yale University. The Yale Centre for British Art, housed in a luminous building designed by Louis Kahn, contains the finest historical collection of British painting to be found anywhere outside the UK.

Sadly, Kahn's building was closed all last year. The roof needed urgent attention; and while its 50 domes were being refitted, the galleries were supplied with new backing wall-boards, linen and carpets. Now it has reopened, with an interior as pristine as it was when inaugurated in 1977.

Kahn's architecture, dominated by concrete, steel and glass on the austere facade, becomes far richer within. The Entrance Court, surging up through the full height of the building so that it benefits from the glazed domes' top-lighting, offers a spectacular welcome. Not that Kahn relinquishes his Corbusian love of concrete inside. It remains visible wherever you look, and takes on an awesome authority in the cylindrical staircase.

With considerable daring, Kahn exposed the outside of this great drum to anyone gazing down from above. It looks like minimal sculpture at its most uncompromising, above all when viewed from the well of the Library Court. But the wood in panelling and floor, as well as a magnificent rug spread between the sofas, offset any threat of gloom.

Moreover, the walls of the Library Court have been re-

VISUAL ART: The great benefactor
Paul Mellon would have loved his beautifully refurbished Yale Centre for British Art, says Richard Cork

hung to dramatic effect. Now the cream of the paintings by George Stubbs, an abiding favourite of Mellon, are displayed around the room. Previously, the two largest and most provocative Stubbs canvases, *Horse Attacked by a Lion* and *Lion Attacking a Stag*, were hung far above visitors' heads. Now they confront us at eye level.

The main sweep of the collection, though, can be found on the fourth floor. Rearranged in a series of themes, it tells a broadly chronological story of British painting from Tudor times to the early 20th century.

Mellon bought Gainsborough at an early, captivating stage, when the young artist lived in Suffolk and painted the Gravenor family at ease on the edge of a sunlit cornfield. The outcome is the quintessence of freshness, bathing the Ipswich apothecary with his wife and delectable daughters in a luminosity Gainsborough would never surpass.

Mellon did not stint when he had the chance to acquire masterpieces by celebrated artists. Nothing could be more vibrant than Turner's large, immanently preserved panorama of Dordrecht, while Constable is seen at his most agitated

in a headlong canvas of Hadleigh Castle.

Although the centre's collection does not extend very far into the present century, its ebullient director, Patrick McCaughey, has ensured that the reopening is marked by three stimulating shows devoted to pre-eminent modern artists. The Entrance Court is filled with carvings and bronzes by Henry Moore, concentrating on his preoccupation with the "heroic" figure. Some of the finest pieces were made between the wars, when Moore concentrated on carving. *The Reclining Woman*, loaned by Ottawa, hewn from Green Hornstone in 1930, is among the most satisfying of all his attempts to fuse female and landscape forms.

But most of Moore's exhibits are post-1945, when he began to favour bronze and embarked on a sequence of family groups. Inspired perhaps by the birth of Moore's own child, they look like an attempt to affirm optimism after the Holocaust. After a time, though, disquiet breaks out. In a small *Mother and Child* from Washington, the offspring seems bent on biting the proffered maternal breast. And two large *Warrior* figures, among

"The walls have been rehung to dramatic effect"

Moore's few attempts to explore the male form, show brutally severed victims scarcely capable of holding shields to protect themselves from further assault.

In this respect, they are surprisingly close to the emotions generated by another show upstairs: a Francis Bacon retrospective. The range of Bacon's art is here, from a phantom-like *Crucifixion* painted in 1933 to a mysterious, impulsive *Jet of Water* painted a few years before his death. The Yale survey does compelling justice to the flowering of the artist's vision, displayed in intimate spaces that intensify the theatricality of Bacon's art.

Another painter who came to maturity after the war, Lucian Freud, is scrutinised in the third show. It concentrates on his etchings alone, lent by the PaineWebber Art Collection. They provide a remarkably absorbing insight into Freud's achievement, even though he abandoned etching for three decades after an initial involvement with the medium during the 1940s.

Starting with his resumption of interest in 1982, the survey charts Freud's probing, alert scrutiny of heads and bodies alike. Most of them close on the sinner, fascinated above all by the human face's capacity to disclose individuals at their most stoical, contemplative and solitary. Freud's mastery increases as the exhibition proceeds, and his latest prints arrive at a magisterial command of a medium he was born to explore.

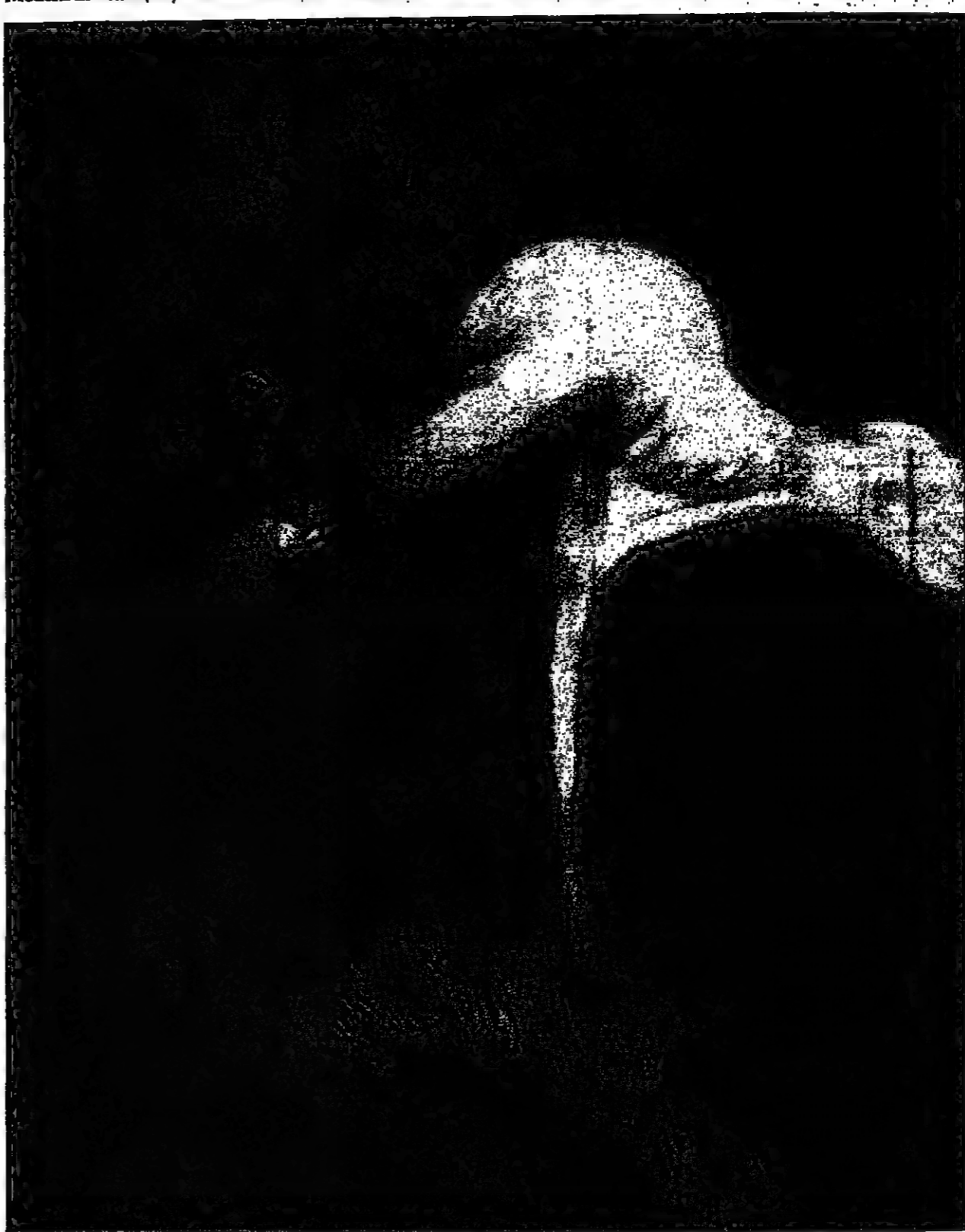
● Bacon, Freud and Moore at the Yale Centre for British Art (201-203 432 2800), 1080 Chapel St, New Haven, Connecticut, until Mar 21



Modern masters: (left) Lucian Freud's *Lord Goodman in his Yellow Pyjamas* (1987); Henry Moore's *Reclining Woman* (1930)



Modern masters: (left) Lucian Freud's *Lord Goodman in his Yellow Pyjamas* (1987); Henry Moore's *Reclining Woman* (1930)



The full range of Francis Bacon's work is on show at Yale University in Connecticut, including *Untitled* (1943 or 1944)

Gluck runs out in the gloom

ORPHEUS may have to cross the River Styx and go through Hades to find his beloved Eurydice, but that is no good reason for filling Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* with Stygian gloom. Martha Clarke, the American choreographer who has returned to the Coliseum to direct her unlovely 1997 production, seems more intent than ever on putting massive obstacles between Gluck's score and the audience. She shunts the admirable ENO chorus off to the side-stage boxes so that they do not get in the way of her dancers.

She then allows her designer, John Conklin, to strew the stage with jagged boulders,

presenting problems for the ballet corps of light in the *Dance of the Blessed Spirits*. The new Orpheus, the Polish counter-tenor Artur Stefanowicz, literally has to stumble his way through the murk. His voice is clean and even, although it tends to lose power in the lower register. His English is less good and does scant justice to Anne Ridler's crisp translation. But *Che farò* was sung with deep feeling, very slowly, and tenderly supported by the Baroque expert, Roy Goodman, in his house debut.

Margaret Richardson was

much clearer as Eurydice, as her soprano flowed easily through bafflement at Orpheus's behaviour to outright anguish. Mary Nelson's Amor would have more impact had the costume designer, Jane Greenwood, given her something half decent to wear. Grungy, outsize black overcoats were the order of the day. Even here Martha Clarke miscalculates.

After entombing Gluck between the dry ice of Hades and one of Greece's rockier places, she suddenly decides to have a frolic. The dancers toss a skeleton high into the air with the help of a sheet, like medical students having ribald fun during

rag week. Simultaneously a flaxen-haired mopet strews rose petals in the path of Orpheus and Eurydice. Their daughter?

Crudity meets kitsch in an evening where contemporary dance clashes with Gluck.

JOHN HIGGINS

A dream of a theme

A SUCCESSION of standing ovations at the Festival Hall failed, thank goodness, to squeeze any encores out of the pianist Maurizio Pollini at the end of a recital of late Beethoven Bagatelles and Variations. The unhysterical warmth of that applause recognised the consummatory stature of Pollini's performance of the *Diabelli Variations*.

Pollini announced the theme with frisky mischief, soon transmuted into a tongue-in-cheek, toy-soldier march. By the third variation Beethoven's and Pollini's intellects were busy tying musical knots which were as speedily unravelled in the playful rhythms of the fourth and the one-man-band flamboyance of the fifth.

After the pianistic strobilic lighting of the tenth variation's rapid octaves, it was time for transformation. From

reverence for the works sometimes tempted him to keep just too tight a grip on the music. But in the last great Op 126 Pollini's grasp of the cumulative power of their alternating moods fused in a final enfold of perfect expressive proportion.

HILARY FINCH

With the four isolated opening notes of Variation 20, Pollini scented out the way forward for the last 13 variations. The naughty *Don Giovanni* variation became a springboard for outrageous virtuosity before Pollini's last five variations created a true sense of the visionary as the theme made a final return, humbled, chastened and transfigured.

Earlier in the evening, Pollini had drawn in his audience in the two sets of Bagatelles. In the earlier Op 119 his obvious

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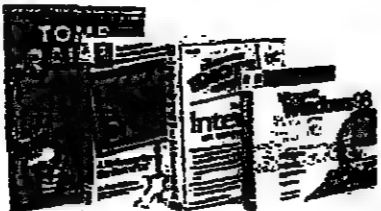


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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

Golden glow for British athletics
Page 26

Irvine savours sweet taste of success
Page 27

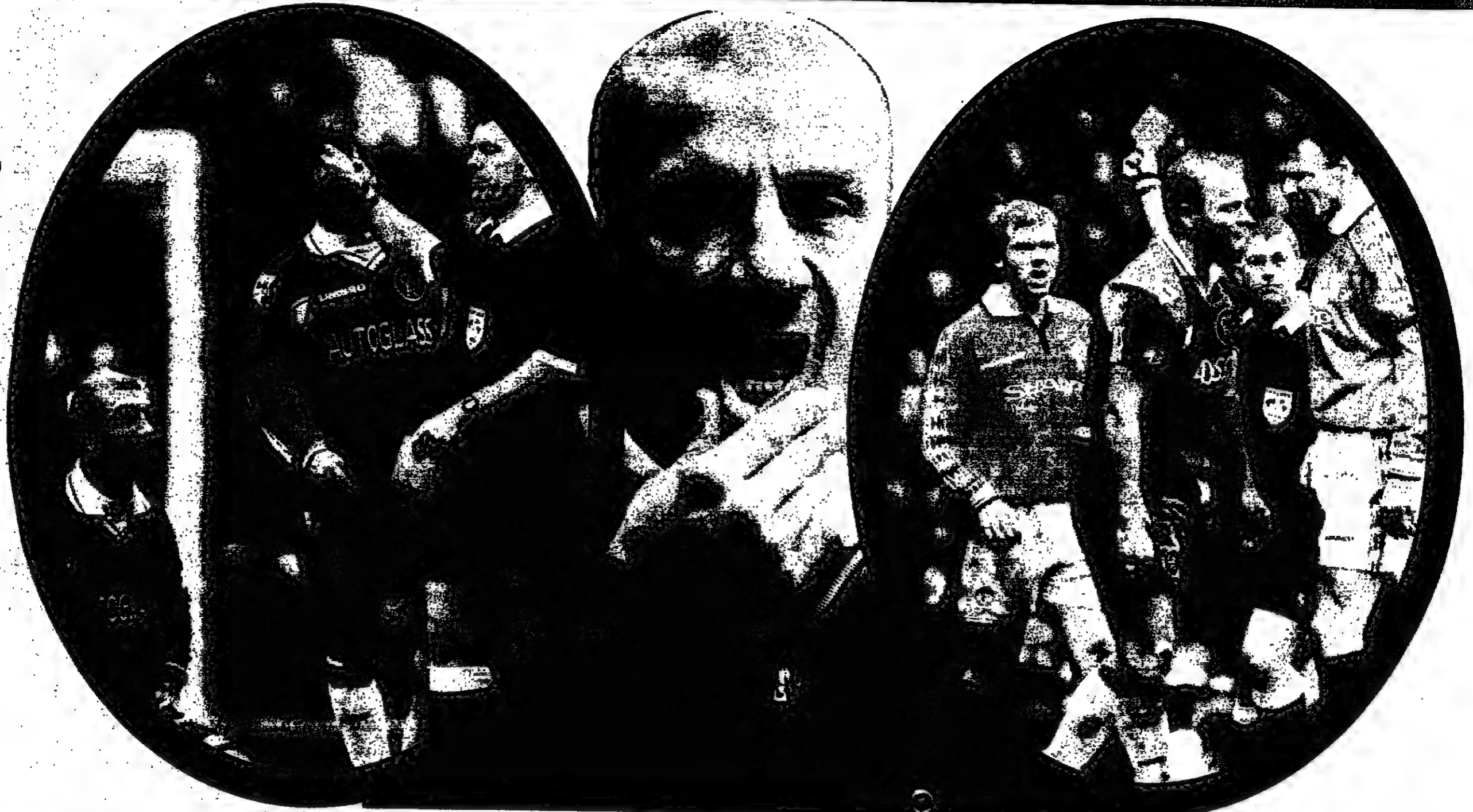
England turn on the power

TIMES SPORT

16 PAGES

MONDAY MARCH 8 1999

MANAGERS PAY HEAVY PRICE FOR TRIFLING WITH FA CUP



Nil-nil desperandum: the dismissals of Di Matteo, left, and Scholes, right, added to the cost of the FA Cup stalemate at Old Trafford yesterday for the likes of Vialli

Semi-detached rivals left to rue unwanted extension

THROUGH gritted teeth and laboured smiles, Alex Ferguson and Gianluca Vialli paid lip-service to the importance of living to fight another day in the FA Cup. When they could hide their disappointment no longer, though, their thoughts wandered to the only team who can still deprive them of a title that they hold more dear.

By their scowls yesterday, it was clear that they were thinking about Arsenal Wenger cracking open a bottle of fizzy water and toasting his old sparring partner, fixture congestion. This was the day when the FA Cup exacted its revenge on Manchester United and Chelsea.

In the past, they have managed to get away with their callous treatment of the famous old competition, riding along on their pragmatism and their shadow sides, grabbing late winners or losing gallantly, but always, always, avoiding that worst of all fates, the Scylla and Charybdis of modern football: the replay.

Ferguson, in particular, has often joked about his horror of not deciding a cup-tie at the first attempt, of wild plans to send Peter Schmeichel up with the forwards for the last five minutes if the match was in the icy grip of deadlock. The Manchester United manager stopped short of that yesterday, but, in desperation, he did bring some of the heroes of the win against Internazionale off the bench for the last 20 minutes of this quarter-final. By then, it was too late. The

MANCHESTER UNITED 0
CHELSEA 0

by Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

replay will take place at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday, which means that United have to sacrifice their scheduled FA Carling Premiership match against Liverpool at Anfield and Chelsea their game against Middlesbrough at the Riverside Stadium.

Worse, both sides had a player sent off for two rather innocuous offences, which means that Roberto Di Matteo and Paul Scholes will miss a game in the championship run-in.

"We have got fewer games to play than Chelsea and Arsenal," Ferguson said. "If anything, it is worse for Chelsea than us, because they will find that their games start to come thick and fast now. Arsenal are the ones who will really benefit from what happened today. They are probably the favourites to win the league now."

Vialli agreed. "Both teams could have done

without another match and the winner at the end of the day is probably Arsenal, because now is a very decisive moment of the season and the fewer matches you play, the better," the Chelsea manager said.

That the FA Cup has become something of a frippery was evident when Ferguson left out Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole, the forwards who have been terrifying defences from Filbert Street to the Nou Camp, and played Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as the focal point of an unfamiliar formation that was as close as United have come to dispensing with their trusted 4-4-2. Somehow, it all seemed rather half-hearted and conservative. The match itself was untidy and devoid of fluency.

Phil Neville was used, to good effect, to man-mark Gianfranco Zola and stifle what re-

mained of Chelsea's creativity, deprived as they were of Frank Leboeuf, Celestine Babayaro, Dennis Wise and Vialli himself. The result was a rather tetchy impasse, a game smothered by caution when it should have been liberated by the abandon of its lowly place in the scheme of things.

It was typical of the occasion that just when it seemed it might be cut loose from its bonds shortly before half-time, when Gary Neville had glanced a fine diving header against the face of Ed de Goey's right-hand post, it was killed stone dead by the sending-off of Di Matteo for an ill-judged tackle on Scholes that compounded his earlier mistimed challenge on Beckham.

It is hard to criticise Paul Durkin, the referee, because, taken individually, both were bookable offences. There was no malice in either challenge

SEMI-FINALS
Newcastle v Burnley or Tottenham
Man Utd or Chelsea v Arsenal

Matches to be played at neutral venues on April 11

and common sense should have allowed the Italian to stay on the pitch. In a refereeing culture where the officials are punished for such diversions into sentiment, though, Durkin had little option but to administer the letter of the law.

The same applied to the dismissal of Scholes four minutes from the end for a similarly innocuous tackle on Goldback. By then, the game was all but over anyway. Chelsea, who managed just one shot on target in the game, a first-half curler from Morris that was saved easily by Schmeichel, had decided that a draw was the best they could achieve with ten men and defended so well that they earned it.

In its pursuit, De Goey and Marcel Desailly were outstanding. The Dutch goalkeeper made his first important save in the fifth minute, hurling himself to his right to parry a stinging drive by Keane and then doing just enough to distract

Scholes as he ran on to Beckham's delightful lob over the Chelsea defence six minutes later. Beckham should have scored himself five minutes after half-time, but he lifted his shot high over the bar from ten yards after Scholes pulled the ball back from the byline.

De Goey came to the rescue again in the 58th minute, when Solskjaer's first-time ball freed Scholes. De Goey managed to block his shot and Beckham snatched at the rebound and pulled it wide.

Midway through the half, Scholes, whom Ferguson singled out for his profligacy, put a shot into the side-netting at full stretch and, 13 minutes from the end, De Goey frustrated United one last time, turning Scholes's touch over the bar after Yorke's attempt at an overhead kick had cannoned off Le Saux.

Le Saux, by the way, behaved impeccably in the face of the all too predictable baiting from the crowd. Spare a thought, too, for Beckham, who was also taunted. He did not fling out his elbows or lose his temper, but who among the outraged chat-show and phone-in hosts and the new football intelligentsia will take up his cause?

MANCHESTER UNITED (3-4-3): P. Schmeichel; H. Bagg, P. Neville (sub: D. Yorke, 75min), W. Brown — G. Neville, R. Keane, P. Scholes, D. Brown — D. Beckham, O. S. Solskjaer (sub: E. Sheenagh, 60), J. Blomqvist (sub: A. Cole, 82)

CHELSEA (4-4-2): E. de Goey — A. Famer, M. Desailly, B. Larnbouque, G. Le Saux — D. Parravicini (sub: E. Newton, 46), J. Morris, R. Di Matteo, B. Gotschall — T. A. P. (sub: M. Forster, 60), G. Zola (sub: A. Myers, 79).
Referee: P. Durkin

Dennis Viollet dies at 65

Dennis Viollet, a member of the renowned Manchester United "Busby Babes" team of the Fifties, died at his home in the United States on Saturday after a long illness. He was 65.

Viollet, a prolific goalscorer, came through the nursery system that produced Duncan Edwards and Bobby Charlton.

Report, page 1
Obituary, page 23

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A triumphant Irvine shares his moment of glory with the Ferrari mechanics after crossing the line for victory in the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne yesterday, his first in six years

Irvine laps up luck and overdue taste of glory

FROM KEVIN EASON
IN MELBOURNE

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER jumped impatiently into his hire car for the getaway while two Ferrari mechanics pushed a pile of tyres between the knot of people gathered long after the rest of Formula One had set off for the airport. At the centre of the group of hangers-on and leeches from the corporate, entertaining, Venetian, Eddie Irvine, dressed in a bright red Ferrari sweatshirt, slipped from a can of beer and slipped his arm around the neck blonde who wanted her picture taken with today's grand prix hero. When you have waited six years and 52 races for victory, you can afford to savour it for a while.

The Ulsterman, who has carved out a career as the best No 2 driver in Formula One, discovered yesterday how to become the No 1. Luck was, powerfully, on his side in the season-opening Australian Grand Prix. At the start of the day, you would have been hard-pressed to find anyone willing to bet on Irvine, such was the speed of the McLarens of Mika Hakkinen, in pole position, and David Coulthard, while Schumacher sat ominously in third place on the grid — except, that is, for a red-haired, freckled youth, on holiday from his native Kerry, who had put Aus \$20 on his countryman.

He ignored Irvine's dismal practice days and a qualifying performance that put him only sixth on the grid, but perhaps he understood more about the alarming vagaries of Formula One than the rest of the 120,000 crowd. When he wakes up after spending his \$300 winnings in the row of

GRAND PRIX 99 RESULTS FROM MELBOURNE

RESULT: 1. E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1hr 35min 1.55sec; 2. M Schumacher (Ger, Jordan) 1.57sec; 3. R Schumacher (Ger, Williams) 2.01sec; 4. G Fisichella (It, Benetton) 2.41sec; 5. P Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 2.49sec; 6. P De La Rosa (Sp, Arrows) 2.51sec; 7. T Takagi (Japan, Arrows) 2.56sec; 8. M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1 lap.	1. Villeneuve 1:32.688; 2. J Trulli 1:32.971; 3. J Herbert 1:32.991; 4. P Dini 1:33.374; 5. A Zanardi 1:33.549; 6. J Alesi 1:33.810; 7. T Sato 1:34.192; 8. P De La Rosa 1:34.244; 9. R Zonta 1:34.412; 10. P Dini 1:33.088; 11. L Badoer 1:35.218; 12. M Gede 1:37.013.
GRANDS PRIX TO COME: April 11: Brazil (Sao Paulo), May 2: San Marino (Imola), May 16: Monaco (Monte Carlo), May 23: Spanish (Barcelona), June 13: Canada (Montreal), June 27: French (Magny-Cours), July 4: British (Silverstone), July 25: Austrian (Zeltweg), Aug 1: German (Hockenheim), Aug 29: Hungarian (Budapest), Aug 30: Belgian (Spa-Francorchamps), Sept 12: Italian (Monza), Sept 26: European (Nurburgring), Oct 17: Malaysian (Kuala Lumpur), Oct 31: Japanese (Suzuka).	

bars that crowd Fitzroy Street, outside the Albert Park circuit, he will probably contemplate the extraordinary circumstances that helped Irvine on his way to victory. The Stewart-Ford of Rubens Barrichello and Johnny Herbert, for example, which looked so competitive, both burst into flames as they waited for the start. Barrichello, fourth on the grid, took the spare car, but had to start from the pitlane, while Herbert was forced to miss out completely. The restart was a calamity for Schumacher, who could not find first gear and was forced to start from the back of the grid, apparently handing the race to the McLaren-Mercedes, which showed speed well beyond the pack all weekend. However, the German's

DRIVER	COMPLETED LAPS	REASON FOR STOP
Johannes van der Grinten (GB, Stewart)	0	overheated
Damon Hill (GB, Jordan)	0	spin off
Jean Alesi (Fr, Sauber)	0	crashed
David Coulthard (GB, McLaren)	13	hydraulic failure
Jacques Villeneuve (Can, BAR)	13	crashed
Alex Zanardi (It, Williams)	24	crashed
Alain Prost (Fr, McLaren)	24	crashed
Oliver Panis (Fr, Prost)	25	crashed
Mark Gené (Sp, Minardi)	25	spin off
Jarno Trulli (It, Prost)	25	spin off
Pedro Diniz (Br, Sauber)	27	crashed
Alexander Wurz (Austria, Benetton)	28	spin off
Luca Badoer (It, Minardi)	42	gearbox failure
Ricardo Zonta (Br, BAR)	43	overheated

mishap and the burning Stewarts were merely precursors to a race of epic mishap. Damon Hill could not make it beyond the third turn in his Jordan, spinning off after being tapped from behind by a Prost-Peugeot, while Jean Alesi's Sauber did not even get off the grid.

Irvine, meanwhile, made an aggressive start, pulling up to third place through the gap left by Schumacher and Barrichello. Schumacher, characteristically, carved his way through the field, but how could even he catch Hakkinen? The world champion, in a dominant car and protected by the patrolling Coulthard in second place, looked invincible. There was not long to find out, as the action came thick and fast after Jacques Villeneuve, in his new British American Racing car, crashed out spectacularly on lap No 13. He was unhurt, but his stationary car and debris on the track forced stewards to send out the safety car, bunching up the field and destroying the gap from Hakkinen to Irvine of 13.1sec and to Schumacher, then in seventh, of 37sec.

At that moment, Coulthard discovered that his transmission was jammed in sixth gear. Disconsolately, he pulled into the garage. The defining moment was to come when the safety car was called out a second time after Alex Zanardi's first grand prix for Williams came to an abrupt end in a safety barrier. Hakkinen seemed to have been caught napping by the trailing Irvine as soon as the safety car was recalled, but a steady stream passing the McLaren signalled that the world champion was in serious trouble.

He had suffered a throttle linkage failure and did not more than trundle round until lap No 21, when he realised that his car was not going to cure itself. The Finn allowed himself a rueful smile as he followed his team-mate into the garage.

By now, Irvine was streaking clear of Heinz-Harald Frentzen's Jordan and facing only one serious threat — from Schumacher, his team-mate. He had closed to within 2sec of the leading group, knowing that there would be no battle with the race leader and expecting no less than victory — Irvine is under contract to give way to him and would have had to pull over as soon as he saw Schumacher in his wing mirrors.

This time, though, Schumacher was to suffer the ill luck that ended his title aspirations in the final grand prix of last year in Japan. On lap 26, his right rear tyre blew out, shattering bodywork and forcing him into the pits. He never recovered the lap lost while mechanics replaced tyres and a shattered nose cone. Irvine's progress to the chequered flag was serene, though the carnage behind him continued, with a total of 14 cars dropping out to leave a top six that included Frentzen, in his first race for Jordan, Barrichello, after an astonishing drive that included a stop for a 10sec penalty, and the rookie, Pedro de la Rosa, in his first drive for Arrows.

Not that Irvine looked back. His team-mate was a lap behind in eighth place, too far to invoke any contractual obligations that could rob the Ulsterman of his few hours of glory.

Ecdote bid, page 48

Family man moves up a gear

Kevin Eason believes there is still life in the vibrant Ulsterman yet

ALL along the dimly-lit street, only one sitting room was alive with the sound of laughter and celebration in the early hours of Sunday morning. Edmund and Kathleen Irvine usually travel the world to watch their son competing for the most glamorous team in the most glamorous sport on earth. This time, they decided they would stay at home in their little house near Bangor, Northern Ireland. Perhaps, like the whole of Formula One, they believed that they could afford to miss the Australian Grand Prix because nobody gave their son a chance of winning. But the telephone call that woke them in the early hours confirmed what they hoped would happen eventually: that Eddie Irvine was a winner.

Irvine is Formula One's paradox. He is the maverick who has conformed to the strictest contract in Formula One, forbidding him to outperform his team-mate; he is the man-about-town devoted to his family, particularly his parents and sister, Sonia, who works as his physiotherapist, and he is the driver who, until yesterday, scorned his record of never having won a grand prix. But he has reaped the reward of diligence beyond the call of a duty that has been both a curse and a blessing on his career. There can be no doubt that Irvine, 33, is a talented driver, yet he has bound himself into a deal at Ferrari that made it well-nigh impossible for him to consider himself to be a potential winner. Irvine ploughed his way through the ranks, his brilliant style attracting admirers until the equally maverick Eddie Jordan brought him to Formula One six years ago. His impact was immediate and spectacular — in his first race, he was lapped by Ayrton Senna, only to retake the Brazilian. The three-times world champion was so incensed that he marched down the pitlane and punched Irvine on the nose. But Irvine has that effect on much of Formula One. They like him or



Irvine savours the moment on the podium

hate him for his outspoken views, blunt language and apparent arrogance. For Irvine, the move to Ferrari, as No 2 to Michael Schumacher, has been a two-edged sword, for he has the machinery to compete, but his contract states he must give way to the German. Against that, he drives for the most famous team in the world, for which he is handsomely rewarded with about £3 million a year. It has been the impossible choice: give up Ferrari and the fabulous salary as No 2 or move to another team with perhaps a worse chance of win-

ning. His job for three years has been to ride shotgun for Schumacher, blocking McLarens and clearing the path for his team-mate. Yet Schumacher has failed to win the title in spite of his efforts and Irvine has become increasingly frustrated, realising that he is good enough to win, just not allowed to, on the way to the end of his career. Before the season started, the signs of restlessness were there as he contemplated another season as Schumacher's bridesmaid, no longer satisfied by the salary, the helicopter and yacht or the adulation of Ferrari's devoted fans. The zero in the wins column of his record was increasingly irritating and a matter for correction. It was just a question of how against two superior McLarens and his team leader. A month ago, he said: "I just have to make sure I am there when my time comes and maybe I could win a race or two for Ferrari. It is the one gap in my record and I don't want to finish my career in Formula One not having won a race. Last year, I was waiting for three drivers to fall off the circuit before I had a chance of winning." Yesterday, it finally happened and all three did clear a path for a maiden victory. The question now is whether Irvine can grasp his victory and improve on it.

SNOOKER

Williams enters a new hall of fame

FROM PHIL YATES
IN BANGKOK

MARK WILLIAMS joined the select band of players to have won three world-ranking events in a season when he defeated Alan McManus 9-7 in a gripping final of the Thailand Masters at the Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok, last night. Williams has blossomed into a formidable opponent of late. Successful at the Irish Open in December, when he beat McManus 9-4, and the Welsh Open a month later, the gangling 23-year-old, from Ebbw Vale, emulated Steve Davis, Stephen Hendry and John Higgins. The £50,000 first prize carried Williams's total earnings this season to £273,325, while the manner in which he overcame high-quality opponents in his closing three matches served to underline the credentials of a realistic challenger for the world championship next month. Williams, whose already healthy level of confidence was bolstered by convincing victories over Hendry, in the quarter-finals, and John Parrott, in the semi-finals, made his presence felt by establishing a 3-1 lead with breaks of 87, 64 and 106. McManus fashioned a last red-to-pink clearance to steal the fifth frame and had the opportunity to force a re-spotted black in the sixth, but, having cleared yellow to pink, he overcut a routine black off its spot. Williams is recognised universally as the most dangerous single-ball potter in the game and this proved to be invaluable when, with the cue ball awkwardly tucked under the balk cushion, he sweetly stroked in the black from dis-

RESULTS FROM BANGKOK

SEMI-FINALS
M Williams (Wales) 8-7 J Parrott (Eng) 6-2
A McManus (Scot) 10-9 D Morgan (Wales) 6-1
FINAL
Williams 10-7 McManus 9-7
(Frame scores: Williams first: 87-0, 114-2, 0-94, 64-10, 53-62, 77-53, 72-17, 68-24, 57-69, 70-43, 60-12, 12-65, 22-62, 53-73, 2-62, 76-46)



Melbourne's skyline dwarfs Irvine's Ferrari

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CHANGING TIMES

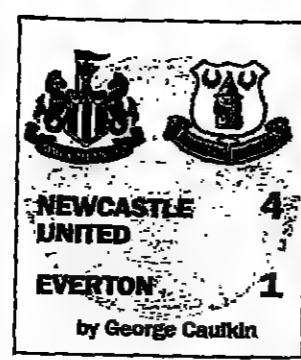
FA Cup: Vibrant Newcastle leave Gullit one step away from Wembley final

Ketsbaia makes rueful Everton pay

MOMENTUM is the hardest thing to gain in football and the easiest to lose. With a mistimed pass or careless lunge, the efforts of a club can quickly be forsaken, a comeback forgotten, a recovery shelved. For Everton, the moment that their season became wholly trained to avoiding relegation arrived with the dreadful clarity of a deflected shot and the horror of a needless free kick.

By straining to reach a speculative effort from Terni Ketsbaia, Marco Materazzi unwittingly initiated Newcastle United's first goal, diverting the course of the ball with significant effect. By felling Alan Shearer on the fringes of the penalty area, Don Hutchison provoked a second. Two-one down and with Ruud Gullit's stifled revival escalating, Everton retreated to familiar, sapping territory.

While there was much more to come, Hutchison's intervention definitively altered the course of the game. Where, for gaping intervals at the beginning of each half, Everton had dictated its pace and shape, the impetus was now lost.



quired for the renewal of his work permit — and yet he played with a fierce, indelible hunger.

"I would like him to stay, of course," Gullit, the Newcastle manager, said, "but there is good competition for places now and Ketsbaia, because of the new regime, is showing his best form." His first goal may have been blessed with a healthy slice of good fortune, but the same could not be said for either his second or Newcastle's fourth, which he created for his side's official new captain, Shearer.

Walter Smith, an empty, haunted figure afterwards, insisted that Newcastle were flattered by the scoreline and, in a sense, the Everton manager was right. For the first 15 minutes of both halves, Everton were worthy combatants, but they crumbled badly.

As the rain teemed down from a sky as leaden as the stretch of muck that barely passed muster as a pitch — two inspections eventually permitting the tie to proceed — Everton's players, showered and changed, trudged along the fringes of St James' Park to their coach. It was a poignant end to a vibrant afternoon, coming in stark comparison to the first little teaser which arrived with the team-sheets.

Since signing from Croatia Zagreb last month, the introduction of Silvio Maric to English football has waited on the vagaries of a work permit, international clearance and the postponement of a reserve team match, although, after a trip to the races, a point-to-point excursion and the grand tour of Tyneside's finest fashion houses, his acclimatisation was already fairly complete.

All that remained was to exchange the black and white shirt that Maric had been sporting while awaiting the completion of his £3.65 million transfer for the real thing and,



Georgiadis, second left, of Newcastle United, is mobbed by team-mates, including Ketsbaia, right, after scoring his side's second goal yesterday

Sunderland march on... 31
Rangers reach last four... 31
Results and tables... 30

Three Newcastle goals in the space of 20 minutes spoke of a dominance that they only lastly earned.

Suddenly, they are beginning to resemble a team. In Shay Given, Steve Howey, Dimitar Hamann and Shearer, Newcastle possess a backbone finally delivering the weight that it promises. The disharmony evident in the days around Christmas has been dispelled by positive results and now, where before they seemed flimsy and unimportant, their squad players are capable of injecting vigour.

The redoubtable Ketsbaia, the former Georgia international, whose future on Tyneside is far from certain, was their hero yesterday. If he remains in the team until the end of the season, he will still fall some way short of figuring in 75 per cent of Newcastle's matches — the minimum re-

perhaps a touch surprisingly, that happened yesterday. The surface was too treacherous, Gullit had said, a lack of match fitness palpable, yet there he was jogging on to the field, taking his place on the left side of midfield.

Though Hamann had been the first to threaten with a speculative 20-yard punt that dipped markedly above the crossbar, Newcastle were sluggish in leaving the blocks. There were some pretty touches in the central portion of the

field, particularly from Maric, but, for long periods, the swirling, miserable conditions clearly favoured Everton's pragmatic tendencies.

The first goal by Ketsbaia altered that draining Everton of control and self-confidence until the whistle for half-time cleared the distraction. From a flurry of quick passes involving Maric and Shearer, Ketsbaia emerged with the ball on the fringes of the penalty area. At that stage, a shot had appeared to be the least obvious

option, but the frame of Materazzi, hurled towards the danger, shaped glory from ignominy.

It stopped the game in its tracks. Half-time brought a renewal of efforts and, from Everton, an influential tactical change. Don Hutchison, back from suspension, was pushed forward alongside Cadamarteri and Jeffers and the complexion changed. Hutchison nicked the ball from Steve Howey, flicked it forward and, from a considerable distance,

David Unsworth left Shay Given sprawling. Within another five minutes, Newcastle were ahead once more.

From Hutchison's rudimentary foul, Thomas Myhre, the goalkeeper, could only parry Hamann's shot into the path of Materazzi. The Italian centre half could no little other than watch the ball spin from his leg as George Georgiadis, a substitute, turned it home.

In the 72nd minute, Georgiadis found Ketsbaia with a square pass along the perime-

ter of the area. He stepped outside Unsworth and shot beyond Myhre and, eight minutes from time, Shearer converted a move he had begun. A combination of one-touch passes culminated with a low, firm shot that struck right at the heart of Everton's season.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): A. Green — W. Banton, S. Howey, N. Dinkins, D. Dorr — N. Solari, D. Hamann, R. Lee, S. Maric (sub: G. Georgiadis, 54min) — A. Shearer, T. Ketsbaia. EVERTON (4-4-2): T. Myhre — D. Weir, D. Webster, M. Materazzi, J. O'Kane — A. Grant, D. Hutchison, D. Unsworth, M. Barmby, D. Cadamarteri (sub: J. O'Shea, 73), F. Jeffers (sub: I. Bielecky, 73).

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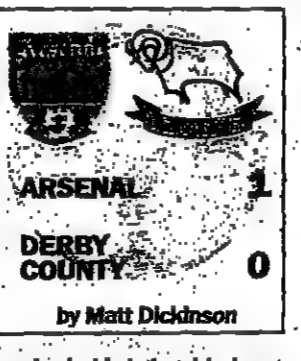
Plain old Kanu quickly makes a name for himself

THE doubts over his health and confidence dissipate by the week and, as if to mark his rejuvenation, the goalscoring hero on Saturday has even consigned his bothersome Christian name to his troubled past. From now on, the Arsenal No 25 wishes to be known only as Kanu. The tongue-tripping Nwankwo has been left behind.

So, one hopes, have all his problems, with the long-legged Nigerian striding towards fullness at last — a basty judgment, perhaps, after just a handful of performances for Arsenal and only his first goal, but one that is founded on the knowledge that this is a proven winner, with a European Cup medal as evidence.

It does not take long to spot a footballer of talent, particularly amid the blood and thunder of a typically combative FA Cup tie, and Kanu taught the eye from the moment that he entered the fray against Derby County, dipping through the flying tackles with a grace and guile that should not be possible with a basketball player's physique.

The wonder is that more clubs were not willing to gamble on him when internaz-



ionale decided that his heart problems had made him such a risk. Arsene Wenger, who had been mesmerised by him at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, took the plunge and how the Italians must have regretted letting him go when they were so ill-served against Manchester United on Wednesday by Djorkaeff and Baggio.

They needed a player of courage and intelligence and those were the skills that Kanu brought to bear decisively for Arsenal when he was brought on after 65 minutes. The holders had been on top almost from the start, but they were beginning to wonder whether it was to be one of those days. Bergkamp was becoming

increasingly irritated by the limpet marking of Carsley. Anelka was coming to the boil under Stimac's close attention and Overmars was in the sort of selfish mood that made you wonder whether he should have been given a ball of his own.

Farjour, Arsenal's best performer in the absence of Petit and Vieira from central midfield, was providing the biggest threat to the Derby goal, but his shots were mostly from long range and narrowly wide. A game of ten bookings and one dismissal was heading towards a quarter-final replay at Pride Park.

Then Kanu arrived and Arsenal's huffing and puffing found direction. Holes were picked in the Derby defence and finally, in the last minute, the Nigerian made the breakthrough. Parlour's corner fell at Keown's feet and the defender shot on the turn. The ball struck Kanu in the chest, but he swivelled faster than any 6ft 5in man should be able to and struck a shot firmly into the Derby goal.

Arsenal were in the semi-finals and, after the furore surrounding his contribution in the previous round, when he

had combined with Overmars to score that controversial goal against Sheffield United, Kanu had made his proper impact on the competition and kept the holders on course for a second successive double.

"He is a quiet guy, but I think he has a strong spirit," Wenger said of Kanu. "He is improving physically and has a great attitude in training. What he does is always sur-

prising you. You can never guess what he is about to do. The way he solves problems on the pitch is always creative.

"At the moment, he lacks pace and rhythm, but you cannot have that when you have played only five times in two years. He covers less ground than he can, but it is getting better. I see him as a link player, but I still do not know how best to use him. Perhaps in a

Christmas tree (formation) with one striker [Anelka] and two behind [Kanu and Bergkamp]. But he can also play as a target man because of his height."

It is a problem that Wenger can enjoy toying with as his team prepares for the critical months of the season in improving form. Arsenal will not be helped by the loss of Stephen Hughes for three

weeks with a fractured arm, but Vieira will return against Sheffield Wednesday tomorrow night and Petit will be refreshed by his long rest when he comes back from his ankle injury in three weeks.

Arsenal deserved their late break, although there should be sympathy for Derby, whose use of man-markers and three strikers had caused the home side difficulties in the first half. County allowed themselves to be pressed too deep after the interval and Arsenal threw more and more forwards on until his opponents could resist no more.

The frustration proved to be too much for Dean Sturridge, who was shown his second yellow card for protesting about Kanu's goal. There was nothing untoward about it, though, and Kanu went home a convert to the wonders of the Cup. Much will be expected of him now, but, at 22, there is plenty of time to deliver.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D. Sturridge — L. Dixon, M. Keown, T. Agnew, N. Wierzbicki — F. Ljungberg (sub: Kanu, 65min), R. Pardo, S. Hughes (sub: N. Vlahos, 45), M. Overmars (sub: K. Davies, 77) — D. Bergkamp, N. Anelka.

DERBY COUNTY (4-4-2): R. Hall — J. Stimac — J. Laursen, S. Prior, L. Carsley, S. Schorr (sub: J. Hunt, 65) — S. Evans, D. Powell — D. Summerville, D. Burton, P. Whitcombe.



Dunn, the referee, steps in to cool tempers between Anelka, right, and Stimac during a full-blooded FA Cup quarter-final at Highbury, won by Kanu's late goal for Arsenal

Chelsea victories in the replay on Wednesday night and over Arsenal would also raise the possibility of Gullit leading Newcastle out against the club that dismissed him so unceremoniously last year.

Despite the callow way that many of the top teams now treat the FA Cup, the fact remains that all three of the leading title contenders are still pressing for the Double.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said: "We would have preferred not to have to replay, but we are still only two kicks away from Wembley."

Ginola's spectre haunts Tyneside feast

BY OLIVER HOULT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THEY are beginning to scent some of the flamboyance of former years on Tyneside, but the FA Cup semi-final draw yesterday, a mish-mash of ifs and maybes, held out the prospect of two of the most celebrated remnants of the good times coming back to haunt them.

If Tottenham Hotspur beat Barnsley next Tuesday, in a quarter-final delayed by the wintry Yorkshire weather, then David Ginola and Les Ferdinand will be two of the men standing in the way of Ruud Gullit and his revitalised Newcastle United as they attempt to return to the Cup Final for the second year running.

Newcastle barged Everton aside 4-1 yesterday to join the holders, Arsenal, as the only teams through to the semi-finals. It is still possible that the sides who met in the final last season will contest it again this year.

This time, Newcastle

SEMI-FINALS

Newcastle Utd v Barnsley or Tottenham Hotspur
Man Utd or Chelsea v Arsenal
Matches to be played on neutral venues on April 11

would provide Arsene Wenger's team with more of a test, but George Graham, the Tottenham manager, will be savouring already the prospect of leading his team out against his former charges from Highbury in what would be Spurs' second Wembley final this season.

"If we are going to win the competition," Alan Shearer, the Newcastle forward who scored the last of his team's goals yesterday, said, "we are going to have to beat the best teams somewhere along the way. It will be a top-drawer semi-final."

Newcastle's route to a re-run of the final last year still looks easier than that of Arsenal. Through to the semi-finals courtesy of Kanu's late winner against Derby County on Saturday, they will have to vanquish either Chelsea or Manchester United to reach Wembley.

Chelsea held United to a goalless draw at Old Trafford yesterday and will now be the favourites to advance to meet their London rivals for a semi-final that may be played at Wembley if two London teams are contesting it.

Chelsea victories in the replay on Wednesday night and over Arsenal would also raise the possibility of Gullit leading Newcastle out against the club that dismissed him so unceremoniously last year.

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OVERSEAS

	P	W	D	S	L	F
Bayern München	21	17	2	4	2	32
Kaiserslautern	21	11	6	4	2	53
Bayern Leverkusen	20	10	8	2	2	41
FC 1909 München	21	7	8	6	5	36
Hamburg	21	10	5	6	5	32
Hansa Barmbek	21	10	4	7	3	32
VfL Wolfsburg	21	8	8	5	5	39
VfB Stuttgart	21	7	7	7	7	28
Werder Bremen	20	6	7	7	7	29



	HOME					AWAY					Goal diff	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L		F
1 Man Utd	28	10	4	1	35	15	6	5	2	26	14	57 - 34
2 Chelsea	27	9	5	0	21	8	5	6	2	20	14	53 + 19
3 Arsenal	27	8	5	0	21	4	5	6	3	14	9	50 - 22

SV Hamburg	20	6	7	7	24
SC Freiburg	20	5	9	7	22
SSV Jülich	21	5	8	8	21
SSV Duisburg	21	5	7	9	24
Schalke 04	20	5	7	8	20
VfL Bochum	20	5	5	10	23
Nuremberg	21	3	10	8	24
Eintracht Frankfurt	21	4	6	10	22
FC Schalke 04	21	3	8	9	20
Mönchengladbach	21	3	5	13	22

* Does not include last night's late match

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Borussia 1 Internazionale 0; Bologna 2 Lazio 1
 Cagliari 1 Vicenza 0; Fiorentina 2 Parma 1; Lazio 8 Sampdoria 0
 AC Milan 1 Fiorentina 0; Perugia 3 Empoli 1; Udinese 2 2

Lazio	24	15	6	3	52
Fiorantina	24	14	5	5	40
AC Milan	24	13	7	4	38
Parma	24	12	8	4	34
Udinese	24	11	6	7	33
Internazionale	24	10	5	9	43
SS Roma	24	10	5	9	43

4 Leeds	27	8	3	2	21	6	4	6	3	20	20	45	+15
5 Aston Villa	27	8	2	4	25	21	4	6	3	14	24	40	-5
8 Wimbledon	26	7	5	2	16	10	12	6	3	11	20	33	-12
7 West Ham	26	7	5	2	16	10	12	6	3	11	20	33	-12
10 Ipswich	27	7	4	2	23	16	4	2	8	17	19	33	+16
6 Derby	27	5	5	3	13	12	4	6	4	13	13	28	+1
10 Tottenham	27	5	6	2	23	17	2	6	5	10	15	36	+1
11 Sheffield Wed	27	8	3	5	17	10	4	6	3	11	14	28	-11
12 Newcastle	27	8	3	5	17	10	4	6	3	11	14	28	-11
13 Leeds United	27	8	4	1	16	10	12	5	7	16	19	35	+1
14 Leicester	27	5	3	5	18	20	1	2	5	16	19	33	-9
15 Coventry	26	5	4	4	19	15	2	2	10	11	24	30	-9
16 Everton	27	5	3	6	9	7	6	3	9	7	16	23	-9
18 Charlton	26	5	3	6	18	13	2	4	4	14	16	27	-7
19 Blackburn	27	5	3	5	15	16	1	5	8	12	22	26	-11

Bologna	24	5	8	7	30
*Juventus	23	9	7	7	28
Bari	24	6	12	6	27
Cagliari	24	8	5	11	32
Venezia	24	7	7	10	23
Perugia	24	8	4	12	33
*Sampdoria	23	5	8	10	22
Parma	23	5	7	12	32
Vicenza	24	4	6	12	12
Salernitana	24	5	5	14	24
Empoli	24	3	8	13	20

Empoli deducted 2 points.
 * Does not include last night's late match

18 Southampton	26	6	2	6	21	22	1	3	10	6	51	26	-26
20 Middlesbrough	27	1	6	6	11	24	2	2	19	11	30	17	-32

Nationwide

FIRST DIVISION

1	Sunderland	35	15	2	1	40	8	7	8	2	23	14	76	(28)
2	Ipswich	35	12	1	5	25	11	8	6	3	23	11	67	(48)
3	Bradford	34	12	3	2	37	14	7	4	6	22	20	64	(58)
4	Birmingham	35	9	7	2	25	12	8	3	6	28	18	61	(53)
5	Bolton	34	10	4	3	34	18	6	8	3	28	25	60	(62)
6	West Brom	36	11	2	5	38	24	6	6	8	23	30	53	(51)
7	Watford	36	8	7	3	22	17	6	4	8	28	33	53	(51)
8	Huddersfield	35	11	6	1	35	18	3	4	10	16	36	52	(51)
9	Wolves	34	8	1	1	26	15	6	2	9	21	20	52	(47)
10	Sheff Wed	34	8	6	1	32	26	4	6	2	29	26	50	(54)

11	Grimsby	32	9	2	22	13	5	3	8	12	21	45	(34)
12	Northwich	34	6	8	2	35	18	6	4	8	21	25	48
13	Tramrose	35	8	5	8	28	22	4	10	4	25	25	45
14	C Palace	36	8	8	1	33	19	4	4	12	12	36	42
15	Swindon	35	6	6	8	25	17	11	11	11	32	32	48
16	Walsley	34	5	5	8	25	17	4	7	21	21	28	40
17	Barnsley	34	5	7	5	19	20	4	6	7	14	20	40
18	Pontsmouth	35	8	4	5	28	18	1	7	10	19	38	38
19	QPR	36	6	8	8	26	19	1	10	10	16	28	37
20	Oxford Utd	35	6	5	8	22	23	2	6	12	12	34	33
21	Walsley	34	5	5	8	25	17	6	6	10	10	16	28
22	Port Vale	33	7	1	8	15	23	2	3	12	18	24	33
23	Exeter City	33	4	7	6	24	29	1	8	9	18	28	28
24	Crews	33	4	3	9	20	32	2	1	5	10	18	34

SECOND DIVISION												
	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
1 Fulham	33	14	2	1	33	10	8	4	4	18	14	72 (51)
2 Preston	34	10	4	3	38	18	9	5	3	25	16	68 (54)
3 Walsall	34	10	5	3	26	17	9	2	5	20	18	58 (46)
4 Gillingham	33	11	3	3	33	13	8	2	2	15	59	54
5 Bournemouth	32	11	0	5	33	14	8	7	7	21	24	57 (54)
6 Man City	33	6	6	4	22	9	5	8	4	16	15	53 (39)
7 Stoke	31	6	3	4	23	14	8	0	8	17	19	51 (39)

8	Chesapeake	33	13	2	3	3	23	12	7	7	8	17	51	(57)
9	Wigan	31	8	3	3	28	12	6	4	8	18	29	49	(48)
10	Warrington	36	10	3	2	19	7	4	4	8	18	29	49	(48)
11	Reading	33	8	8	6	14	20	4	5	8	15	24	47	(53)
12	Wrexham	33	8	8	6	24	20	5	4	7	19	26	42	(35)
13	Luton	32	7	3	5	16	15	4	5	8	21	28	41	(39)
14	Blackpool	33	5	6	5	18	13	4	5	7	14	20	41	(32)
15	Bristol R.	31	7	6	4	19	19	2	6	8	16	22	40	(38)
16	Sheff. Wed.	32	6	4	5	21	19	2	6	8	21	28	38	(37)
17	York	34	4	7	6	16	14	5	2	10	19	23	38	(40)
18	Burnley	33	8	6	6	15	22	3	4	9	21	25	34	(36)
19	Notts Co.	32	8	3	7	19	20	4	4	15	25	34	34	(34)
20	Oldham	35	5	2	9	18	25	4	4	15	23	33	33	(33)
21	Grimsby City	32	4	5	6	18	24	3	4	11	21	24	31	(29)
22	Northampton	34	2	8	3	13	18	4	4	13	13	21	30	(26)

Only watch as Fabian De Freitas produced the home side's 2-0 victory lifted them

N-LEAGUE AND NATION

RYMAN | **COURAGE**
LEAGUE: PWR

23 Wycombe	33	6	4	8	23	19	0	6	9	8	23	28	(31)
24 Macclesfield	32	3	3	4	8	10	17	2	6	10	11	24	(21)

THIRD DIVISION															
	HOME							AWAY							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Cambridge United	32	10	3	3	26	16	8	5	5	29	18	60	55	29	(60)
2 Cardiff	33	12	3	3	30	13	5	8	5	17	16	59	47	47	(47)
3 Luton	33	10	4	3	28	18	5	7	4	22	20	56	46	46	(46)
4 Swindon	32	12	7	4	31	23	9	11	24	24	24	53	58	53	(58)
5 Scunthorpe	32	11	4	4	31	23	5	3	5	17	22	52	52	54	(54)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	29	9	6	4	52	21	63
2	28	18	4	6	58	30	59
3	32	17	5	10	55	38	56
4	29	14	9	6	53	37	51
5	31	13	10	8	37	30	49
6	28	14	6	6	52	31	48

6	Manfield	34	11	1	4	28	15	4	6	8	20	31	52	(48)
7	Petersburg	34	8	4	6	33	27	6	3	7	22	18	49	(35)
8	Plymouth	32	9	3	4	22	12	5	4	7	16	17	40	(38)
9	Rothenshaw	32	7	5	4	31	21	6	3	7	28	17	47	(39)
10	St. George	32	7	5	4	28	12	5	4	16	47	16	47	(39)
11	Seawear	32	7	7	1	21	12	1	4	8	16	23	47	(37)
12	Exeter	33	10	3	4	24	13	3	5	8	12	20	47	(36)
13	Brighton	34	7	1	8	22	24	7	3	8	21	25	46	(43)
14	Chester	34	4	10	2	17	17	8	5	7	25	27	45	(42)
15	Sharnbury	34	4	4	25	23	2	8	9	11	24	43	40	(40)
16	Stratford	34	8	3	4	25	23	2	8	9	11	24	43	(40)
17	Derlington	31	8	3	4	30	14	4	3	9	17	29	42	(47)
18	Southsea	34	8	4	5	22	13	3	5	9	19	34	42	(41)
19	Torquay	34	7	7	3	23	15	2	8	9	14	28	40	(37)

and	26	14	7	8	53	37	46	COMPLETE Primer chisel Burnham 2 A Chrometor axle 1; Knibury 3 S wood 2 Dildon pored EPC Co
and Wood	28	14	4	10	39	32	46	
of Tin	28	12	12	9	60	47	45	
stroke	28	12	7	9	48	28	43	
	27	11	8	9	43	35	41	
	27	11	8	8	51	45	41	
Boro	31	11	7	13	42	42	40	
	30	10	6	14	42	51	36	
	27	10	5	12	44	49	35	
A H	30	9	7	14	30	41	34	
on	32	8	5	19	34	65	28	ENGLISH IN NATION: Press Sports 1; G Other matches ENGLISH LEAGUE: Pro Matches Pro
ge	30	7	7	16	41	53	28	
on	32	7	7	18	34	57	25	
on	27	7	6	14	24	36	27	
S	30	6	8	16	39	59	25	
S	28	6	8	16	38	60	23	
	28	6	8	16	38	60	23	
	28	6	8	16	38	60	23	
	28	6	8	16	38	60	23	
	28	6	8	16	38	60	23	

20	Canisio	33	8	5	6	18	15	3	6	7	15	21	38	(31)
21	Barnet	33	7	3	7	23	27	3	4	9	18	36	37	(41)
22	Hartlepool	34	5	5	7	27	26	4	3	10	17	31	35	(44)
23	Hull	34	5	4	9	18	23	4	3	9	15	28	34	(33)
24	Scarboro	32	5	2	8	20	27	3	2	12	13	31	26	(32)

SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

	HOME	AWAY	Goal
1	10	10	20
2	10	10	20
3	10	10	20
4	10	10	20
5	10	10	20
6	10	10	20
7	10	10	20
8	10	10	20
9	10	10	20
10	10	10	20
11	10	10	20
12	10	10	20
13	10	10	20
14	10	10	20
15	10	10	20
16	10	10	20
17	10	10	20
18	10	10	20
19	10	10	20
20	10	10	20
21	10	10	20
22	10	10	20
23	10	10	20
24	10	10	20
25	10	10	20
26	10	10	20
27	10	10	20
28	10	10	20
29	10	10	20
30	10	10	20
31	10	10	20
32	10	10	20
33	10	10	20
34	10	10	20
35	10	10	20
36	10	10	20
37	10	10	20
38	10	10	20
39	10	10	20
40	10	10	20
41	10	10	20
42	10	10	20
43	10	10	20
44	10	10	20
45	10	10	20
46	10	10	20
47	10	10	20
48	10	10	20
49	10	10	20
50	10	10	20
51	10	10	20
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62	10	10	20
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65	10	10	20
66	10	10	20
67	10	10	20
68	10	10	20
69	10	10	20
70	10	10	20
71	10	10	20
72	10	10	20
73	10	10	20
74	10	10	20
75	10	10	20
76	10	10	20
77	10	10	20
78	10	10	20
79	10	10	20
80	10	10	20
81	10	10	20
82	10	10	20
83	10	10	20
84	10	10	20
85	10	10	20

JENSON Bands: Weeding 1; Bognor Orchard Clay 1; Baintress 1 Roudston 3; Island 3 Hitchin 0; Chertsey 0 Island 4; Cropton 2 Leyton Park 1; Need 2 Uxbridge 0; Maidenhead 0; Staines 1 Molesey 0; Wembley 0 Wykeless 0 Westcote 2; Second Bandized 0 Harnell Hempstead 4; 4 Barling 0; Edgware 9 Marlow 2; 2 Chalchil St Peter 0; Hatfield 0 1; Loughton 1 Hungerford 0; Mat 2 Bedford Town 4; Tooting and 11 Thame 2; Watnam 0 Northwood 0; 0 Abington Town 0; Wokingham 1 and Elgin 0 Third division: Aylesv 1

	P	W	D	F	A	F	A	F	A	Pts	off
1 Rangers	26	0	3	0	25	7	9	2	3	36	15 +39
2 Celtic	26	11	2	1	40	7	4	4	22	17 +38	
3 Kilmock	26	7	5	2	19	11	4	6	12	8 +32 +11	
4 St Johnst	26	5	5	2	19	16	4	4	13	17 +2 -1	
5 Motherwell	26	6	4	4	17	19	1	5	6	9 19 30 -13	
6 Dundee	26	4	4	4	16	18	4	2	8	13 25 30 -14	
7 Dunferml	26	4	3	7	10	20	3	3	12	23 27 -21	
8 Dundee Utd	26	2	7	3	11	11	4	1	8	16 20 26 -4	
9 Stirling	26	2	1	7	17	19	0	5	7	5 19 24 -16	
10 Dunfermline	26	2	6	11	17	0	8	5	8	21 21 -19	

1. Cambridge 1; Luton 2; Chesham 2;
 2. Canalside 2; Croxson 5; Southall 1;
 1. Hornchurch 3; East Thurrock 1;
 1. Rackwell Heath 1; Ford 2; Kings-
 2. Epsom and Ewell 3; Tring 0; Wingate
 4; Ware 3; Tilbury 3.

EAST COUNTRIES LEAGUE: First Divi-
 1. Camm 1; Cambridge Utd 2;
 1. Lutter 1; Leyton Orient 2; Brandford 4;
 1. Brighton 0; Gillingham 2; Bristol
 1. Utd 0; Colind Utd 2; Reading 0;
 1. Luton 1. Postponed:
 1. Colchester Utd.

SENIOR ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19:

	HOME								AWAY								Pts	Goal off
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	L	P	W	D	L	F	A				
1 Hibernian	28	12	1	1	36	10			1	1	30	17	68	+39				
2 Falkirk	26	6	5	3	20	15	8	1	4	23	12	48	+16					
3 Airdrie	26	8	8	8	13	25	10	3	1	22	8	47	+2					
4 Arbroath	27	7	5	5	14	19	7	5	5	17	15	45	+16					
5 St Mirren	26	2	1	5	16	18	4	6	4	12	12	43	-3					
6 Morton	25	4	4	8	15	15	5	2	6	14	13	33	+1					
7 Clydebank	27	3	3	10	10	5	2	6	18	19	39	-3						
8 Raith	28	4	4	7	14	21	2	4	7	15	26	26	-18					
9 Hamilton	28	2	5	6	11	18	3	2	4	8	16	33	-20					
10 Dundee	28	4	4	4	14	14	2	4	7	15	15	24	-24					

3 West Here 1; Blackburn 1 OPR 1;
Southampton 2; Bristol 3 Everton 2;
0 Liverpool 0; Chelsea 3 Man City 1;
Palace 0 Man Utd 1; Derby 1 Sunderland 2; Watford 0; Newcastle 1;
Ipswich 3; Norwich 2 Middlesbrough 1;
Tottenham 1. **Positively** Middlesbrough
in Merit Forest; Sheffield Wed 1
Under-17; Blackburn 9 OPR 1;
2 Everton 3; Charlton 0 Liverpool 1;
1; 1 Crystal Palace 0; Middlesbrough 1
Newcastle 4 Coventry 3; Peterborough
0; Watford 1 Southampton 2;
2; 2 Arsenal 2. Other matches post-

SECOND DIVISION																			Goal
	HOME										AWAY								Total
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	
1 Livingston	28	10	4	0	24	7	8	4	2	30	30	52	148						
2 Inverness C	28	11	2	0	31	15	6	4	5	29	23	57	152						
3 Clyde	28	9	3	3	23	13	4	4	5	15	17	46	149						
4 Alloa	28	7	3	5	34	22	4	2	7	20	30	39	128						
5 Partick	28	6	2	5	14	15	5	3	7	13	18	37	138						
6 Perth	28	5	3	8	19	24	5	2	5	25	25	25	125						
7 Arbroath	28	5	3	8	19	21	5	3	7	10	13	31	121						

[illegible]

B East Fife	28	4	3	7	18	27	6	2	7	17	22	32	18
9 Queen of S	28	5	6	3	18	13	3	1	10	14	22	31	22
10 Forfar	28	3	3	7	20	25	2	3	10	14	31	21	22

THIRD DIVISION																	
	HOME								AWAY								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
1. Ross County	27	10	1	3	33	11	8	4	3	37	18	25	10	1	1	1	1
2. Stirling	28	7	1	6	29	21	7	4	3	21	13	22	10	1	1	1	1
3. Brechin	27	6	8	4	17	17	7	2	3	17	18	24	10	1	1	1	1

18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
1	2	2	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
3	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	2	3	3	1	2	1	1	1

هذا من الأصل

4. Barnick	38	-5	3	5	20	21	4	8	2	17	17	-38	-21
5. Abdon	26	5	3	5	21	27	6	2	5	17	21	39	21
6. Dunston	25	3	-4	5	14	17	6	4	3	20	16	35	21
7. East Seaport	23	-7	7	8	22	16	4	3	7	20	22	35	21
8. Quaker's Pt.	28	-4	5	3	16	14	3	4	9	18	24	38	21
9. Cowardinboth	27	4	2	8	15	22	2	4	7	10	24	34	21
10. Mowbray	27	4	4	5	20	21	2	1	11	12	24	32	21

100

Small screen fails to do justice to comedy of errors

I am the first person to see a joke against myself, but this goes too far... the archetypal school teacher's words suit Formula One motor racing to a tee. Yes, Formula One is back and funnier than ever. The shame of it is that no one involved in the sport can see how funny it is.

Any sport, surely any other sport in the calendar that began with the world champions accidentally pulling the roof down on top of their own heads, would see that there was something faintly amusing about the business. But, no, not Formula One.

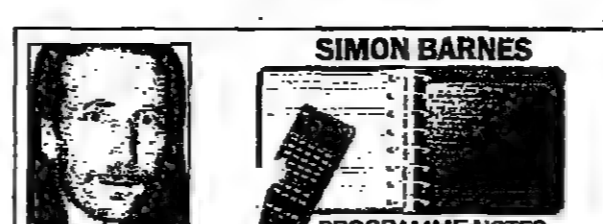
And surely television, if covering any sport other than Formula One, found itself with such hilarious footage — a car

screeching out of the garage with an air hose still attached to it, pulling down the overhead gantry, which laid out the team boss, Ron Dennis, and two or three members of the pit crew — would have replayed it as often as a sequence of the elephant running a mock in the *Blue Peter* studio.

But no, no point. We were given a brief glimpse of this gorgeous Keystone Cop sequence and then we had a learned comment from Martin Brundle: "McLaren are very professional." It seems he didn't quite cover the situation. So he chanted on about "some slight clutch gremlin" while the roof was caving in about McLaren heads.

Oh, it was delicious stuff. And then, after the parade lap, we had a splendid bit of synchronised spontaneous combustion as two cars gently burst into clouds of smoke and had to be dragged off. And, as if that was not rich enough, Michael Schumacher stalled his car again.

Which is exactly what he did in the last race of last season, when he might have won the world championship, but lost his chance by stalling at the lights. Schumacher seems to have a problem with this. No one — or to be accurate, no one inside the sport of Formula One — has ever so much as suggested that the problem might be with Schumacher. No one dares. For the same



reason, no insider dares to think that Formula One could possibly be funny. And the television coverage traditionally defers to the sport's apocalyptic view of its own importance.

There were people popping in and out of garage doors as if this were an automotive version of a Feydeau farce, but no one even noticed that it was amusing.

Instead, there seemed to be a small competition going on in the commentary box, with Brundle daringly and rashly going wheel-to-wheel with Murray Walker. Frequently, the two of them were shouting contradictory things at the top of their voices at the same time: adding to, rather than sorting out the quite extraordinary confusion of the race.

In fact, the race had lost all its logic long before the start

and the tangled and tortuous narrative of the race was made still more confusing by the fast inter-cutting from one car to the next: the policy was to fill the screen with colour and noise and damn the logic of the race.

This aspect of the coverage was dreadful. Meanwhile, one significant incident after another was missed: Schumacher's various charges from the back of the field, Barichello's overtaking manoeuvre — they cut away from him just a few seconds before it happened.

The theme of farce continued: Zonta failing to give way to the race leader because he apparently didn't know the rules; Schumacher cruising in

for a pit stop, finding his pit crew not expecting him and so driving on; Villeneuve with bits of stuff falling off his car.

And, of course, the McLarens. The McLarens were expected to carry all before them, but they flopped out, one after the other. Walker ended the race in absolute ecstasies, but then he ends every race in absolute ecstasies. "And if the rest are as good as this, there is lots of excitement and drama to come."

Precisely. Not great sport, not really sport at all, but Formula One gives us plenty of excitement and drama, not excepting that dramatic form known as farce.

Formula One has become a different kind of sporting enter-

tainment. Television is always inventing new forms — such as, for instance, the docu-soap — and if Formula One is not sport in any exacting sense of the term, it is a wonderful and intermittently hilarious form of television.

Yet television insists on po-faced seriousness, as if it was covering a Papal election — the same reverent gasp whenever a puff of smoke is to be seen. That bit when the car pulled the roof down was the funniest bit of sporting television this year. To show it only once when we get a replay every time a player punches the air was little short of criminal. Alas, we shall have to wait five weeks for the next exciting episode of sport's own docu-soap.

'It's a fact he'll fall in three. The world ain't run by big people; it's run by smart guys'

Holyfield trains in the art of pain

If Lennox Lewis considers himself to be the toughest of Evander Holyfield's opponents, Holyfield sees Lewis as his easiest. In an interview with *The Sunday Times* last November, Holyfield graded his opponents in elementary mathematics terms: Riddick Bowe, the most difficult, was algebra. Lewis is not even addition. He is as simple as counting up to three, for the round in which the bout for the undisputed world heavyweight championship will end here in New York on Saturday, and up to ten for the knockout.

The World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation champion is as certain as his belief in God that the bout will not last beyond the third. After a 45-minute talk in his gym in Houston, Texas, known as the House of Pain, he left me despondent about the prospects of the world heavyweight title coming back to Great Britain.

Admittedly, it was only talk, but the conviction with which he held his view made you imagine, in spite of your better judgement, that the bout was one between man and boy. Even Holyfield's polite and relaxed manner carried a hint of menace. He said: "Talk for as long as you like. I've got all the time in the world. Because I want you to tell the people in England that you spoke to the Real Deal and he told you the real deal."

He denied that his vehemence was the result of Lewis calling him a hypocrite because he preached the word of God and fathered children out of wedlock, even after his latest marriage. Clearly, though, Lewis had got under Holyfield's skin, for, as he expounded on his opponent, he became more and more animated.

"It's not a forecast. It's a fact he'll

SRIKUMAR SEN



fall in three. I'm not the type of person who says something he can't do," Holyfield said. "All my life I've said don't say things that will embarrass you, but as I grow old [he is 36], I realise what I can do and what I cannot do."

"When people say: 'Why are you stepping out?' — I say: 'Is it wrong for a man to grow? I'm not doing it for hype, or publicity, or to get attention. I don't need these things. What Lewis said did not affect me. I've been eating good before Lennox. They've talked about me all my life, when I was poor and now when I'm wealthy.'"

Holyfield was more annoyed with Lewis's claim that, for the past two years, he had been avoiding the World Boxing Council champion, Lewis, he said, must have been aware that the contest had not been made because promoters and managers got in the way, not because Holyfield was



Muscle man: Holyfield works out in the House of Pain, his objective to lift the unified world heavyweight crown by fulfilling his promise to knock out Lewis

ducking him. "You should not say things that can come back on you one day," Holyfield said. "Lennox overpowered himself, telling people Americans were avoiding him. He embarrassed the whole world, saying I ducked him."

"Now the time has come, all he can say is: 'I'm bigger than him.' Bring something more to the table, like being more skilful. The world ain't run by big people; it's run by smart guys. The word of God says we all have to go through our trials to become the person we are. He is coming to his trial and will be able to say he's a man? Unfortunately, no."

"I'm not going to make it easy for him. I'm going to put it on him. He needs to be able to chalk up his defeat and tell his family it was good not to duck anybody."

It was typical of the contrary prayers of boxing, he said, that while in the Land of Love, the resort in

the Pocono Mountains where Lewis trains, Lewis suffered the pain of drugury. Holyfield's House of Pain turned out to be a place of love, of God and boxing. It was a joy for Holyfield to come to work because it gave him the chance to pray.

Unlike most boxers, who run in the early hours and train in the evening, Holyfield works in reverse order, starting at 5.30am. The move is a clever one because it keeps the watchers down to a manageable number. "He doesn't like to turn people away," an admirer said.

After 30 minutes of muscle-stretching, followed by prayers, he had reverberated to the sounds of gospel music as Holyfield went to work. "If you can incorporate prayer in everything that you do, you benefit more. So I get my confi-

dence from God, not from my fists," he said. "I need my confidence to override what this guy's going to do to me, so I pray and pray. I place my faith in God. We know that our thinking ability allows our body to move and if we didn't have the spirit to think, then we wouldn't be able to do anything. My body just does what my mind tells it to and my mind is moved by the spirit of God."

Holyfield spars every other day and this was reserved only for workout. His regime for arm and leg strengthening has been scientifically worked out by Tim Hallmark, a sports medicine expert. Holyfield was strapped, body arms and ankles to a contraption that appeared to have come from the London Dungeon called a Centreforce and he was made to go through the routine of boxing against the resisting springs.

But worst was to come. First, he

had to kick a medicine ball back into the hands of Hallmark, standing 15 feet away. After three rounds of "football", it was time to play catch. The medicine ball was thrown back and forth between him and Hallmark and, at the same time, he had to move forward throwing combinations. The exercise became more and more strenuous as the elastic bands and springs were stretched to the maximum and, still, Holyfield had to work against them.

The champion explained afterwards that the aim was to strengthen his legs and, when released from the constraints of that contraption, to find speed of action.

"I believe in being absolutely fit," he said, "because otherwise I would not be able to follow the instructions of my corner in a fight." He added that he considered his whole career as preparation for the contest, which was the most im-

portant of his life as it would enable him to retire as undisputed champion.

"I'm one of those people who has watched Lennox way before this fight was made. I watch all the people I might have to fight one day," Holyfield said. "Lennox was one of the guys I watched because he was in the Olympics like me and he was a talented kid and I knew he would surface. So, I watched him a lot. I've seen all his fights and I know exactly what to expect."

Holyfield said that he owed it to boxing to leave the division a unified title when he retired. "I want to put things in order," he said. "If you clean up the kitchen and you don't do the sink, you ain't doing your job and your momma is going to give you a good whipping. I don't want a whipping from my momma, so I'm going to give it to Lennox. When the job is over, the Lord will say: 'Well done.'"

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

SPORTS LETTERS

E-mail, including a postal address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

Missing the point

From Mr Geoff Walters
Sir, I read with interest the letter from Rob Edgerdon (March 1) evoking the virtues of Messrs Farrell, Connolly, Radlinski, Robinson and Newlove. While agreeing that they are quality rugby league players, I fear that he, along with many rugby union followers, misses the point.

They are good players because they have grown up playing a code that encourages running, handling and defensive skills that have been undervalued (until recently) in rugby union. From 1895, when the game began to evolve, administrators and lawmakers have sought to make rugby league attractive. To this end, the reduction from 15 players to 13, the abolition of the lineout and the addition of the play-the-ball rule have contributed.

In conclusion, the players mentioned are playing the "right" code. It is Mr Edgerdon and his friends who should change codes to a sport that rewards running, handling, tackling and kicking skills.
Yours faithfully,
GEOFF WALTERS,
7 Fox Court,
Norton Cross, Runcorn,
Cheshire WA9 6SJ.

From Mr Kim Pereira
Sir, John Hopkins's account of the Andersen Consulting Matchplay Tournament was a study in British snobbery. His suggestion that we in America do not understand matchplay is ludicrous. Would he be surprised to learn that matchplay is standard fare in thousands of local tournaments all over the country every year?

So some people don't understand all the rules. So what? Even the players don't understand all the rules of golf. How many of you in England can describe the low rule in cricket? Or a googly? Or a Chinaman (remember Solers)? Mr Hopkins says that cricket is a mystery to us. Do any of you sipping tea in the pavilion know baseball? Ever heard of the infield fly rule? What's the difference between a triple and a triple play?

Perhaps Mr Hopkins is upset that no European made it past the early rounds (the English players, of course, couldn't handle the "easy course" at all).
Yours sincerely,
KIM PEREIRA,
RR 20, Box 216,
Bloomington,
Illinois 61701,
United States.

From Mr Brin Hodge
Sir, Isn't it about time that the second service was abolished in first-class tennis? The odds

Service delivered with a smile

From Mr Dennis Hales
Sir, Last Sunday, while watching the men's singles final between Richard Krajicek and Greg Rusedjski in the Guardian Direct Cup at Battersea, I was reminded of a first-round match in 1961 at the Palace Hotel (Torquay) overdrawn tournament in which I was drawn against top-seeded Mike Sangster (of fond memory). This was the year in which Mike was a semi-finalist in both the Wimbledon and the United States championships.

I lost the first set 6-1, repeatedly falling victim to Sangster's immensely powerful and accurate services. In the third game of the second set, with a grin across the net to Sangster, the score

would still be in the server's favour — particularly in the men's game — but the receiver would have more of a chance, because the server would have to weigh up the possibilities of accuracy versus speed. Whoever heard of a golfer getting a second attempt if his first tee-shot ended up in the rough?
Yours faithfully,
BRIN HODGE,
42 Windmill Avenue,
Wokingham RG41 3XD.

From Mr Richard Walker
Sir, As one who watches his rugby from the Crumbe Stand at Welford Road, I read the assertion, made in your pages on March 1, that Martin Johnson may be a marked man with interest but very lit-

standing at 40-love. I placed a ball just inside the service court at the junction of the centre and service lines — and silently challenged Sangster to hit it.

Sangster took another ball and, like an archer at the butts, sent across a sizzling service that connected squarely with its tiny target to send it skidding off the court. When the applause died down, Sangster went on to take the set 6-1 for the match.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS HALES,
Beethovens,
Cheapside Lane, Denham,
Buckinghamshire UB9 5AB.

tle surprise. I am also unsurprised by the vehemence of comments by your correspondents regarding the rucking incident involving the Leicester captain in the recent Calcutta Cup match.

While not wholly subscribing to the conspiracy theories against Leicester, it is hard not to draw certain conclusions from some of the extraordinary remarks in the press and the hypocrisy of certain players, former players and coaches in their comments aimed at our club. The only explanation can be that it is an example of the petty jealousies permeating the game in England.

However, it is not my intention to dignify those jealous-

Going on to the offensive

From Mr David Compton
Sir, I note your report "Racial disputes blight South African cricket". Whilst accepting that some cricketers might give offence, let us hope that the game's unique terminology should not fall prey to excessive sensitivity.

Calling fielders "short leg" or "silly mid-off" will never, I hope, cause distress to the players concerned and may the batsman whose misfortune has been "caught pulling" be broadcast to the world by Richie Benaud receive sympathy and understanding from his wife when he returns home.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID COMPTON,
Barn Close House,
lichen Abbas,
Winchester SO21 1AX.

From Mr James Hopper
Sir, An event that is more than 2½ centuries old can hardly be called an eccentric new sport (report, February 25). At present, I am halfway through my Classical Civilisation GCSE course and I was intrigued to read Mr Burton Silver's claim that a long jump in which hand-held weights are used to extend the distance would be a new sport. Weights were used in the very first long

jump in the Olympics of Ancient Greece. A performance of 52ft has been recorded from the 29th Olympic Games in 664BC, although historians believe this is exaggerated.
Yours faithfully,
JAMES HOPPER,
Sunridge,
Fairbank Lane, Sunridge,
Oxshott, Surrey KT22 0TW.

From Mr P. J. McCloskey
Sir, I don't know where Oliver Holt obtained the information that Manchester United are now clear favourites to win the European Cup. I bet that's not what the Germans, Italians, Spaniards or Ukrainians think. I'm a United fan and live in hope, but my tip would be Dynamo Kiev.
Yours through untinted glasses,
P. J. McCLOSKEY,
17 Elms Lane,
Wembley HA0 2NX.

From Mr L. Kingsley
Sir, From reading the Saturday "Statistics on Football Offenders" (February 27), the names of Frank Leboeuf, of Chelsea, and Gary Neville, of Manchester United, stand out. Could it be that there is some connection between foul play on the field and football journalism in *The Times*?
Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE KINGSLEY,
7 St James' Close,
New Malden,
Surrey KT3 6DU.

This week in THE TIMES



Tomorrow
Tim Henman, above, seeks to continue his climb up the world tennis rankings at the Champions' Cup

Wednesday
Did Arsenal close the gap on the FA Carling Premiership leaders when they played Sheffield Wednesday?

Thursday
Who triumphed when Manchester United and Chelsea renewed their FA Cup tussle at Stamford Bridge?

Saturday
Comprehensive guide to the weekend's football, with top columnists Danny Baker, Alyson Rudd and Frank Leboeuf

TENNIS

Schnyder searches for solace

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN INDIAN WELLS

FOR once in her life, Martina Hingis is happy to be in the shadow of someone else. As the Evert Cup moves slowly but surely into the second and third rounds — Hingis took her appointed place with a relatively simple 6-3, 6-4 win over Alexandra Stevenson, of the United States — all eyes were upon Patty Schnyder. The pretender to Hingis's throne as Swiss No. 1, Schnyder's every footstep has been dogged by television crews and bevy of reporters ever since she joined forces, both on and off the court, with Rainer Harnacker.

Harnacker's influence over the 20-year-old Schnyder has increased steadily since the two met last December. He began as an adviser, is now her boyfriend and since he has been travelling with her on the tour, their relationship has systematically alienated her family, her friends and her colleagues in the game. At the same time, her form has fallen almost as fast as her weight — Harnacker has instituted a new vegan diet for Schnyder that includes her drinking two litres of orange juice a day.

In the early hours of Saturday morning, Schnyder just about got through her first-round match against Tamarine Tanasugarn, a woman who appears to do most of her training at the dinner table, and then claimed that at last she was rediscovering her game. "Last month, I spent more time talking to the press than on the practice court," she said. "It has to stop now. Everyone has to let me play tennis. I want to work."

Unfortunately for Schnyder, she has no one to work with. She fired her coach of three years, Eric van Harpen, after the Australian Open and then, at the beginning of last week, hired Vito Gugolz. He had worked with Schnyder when

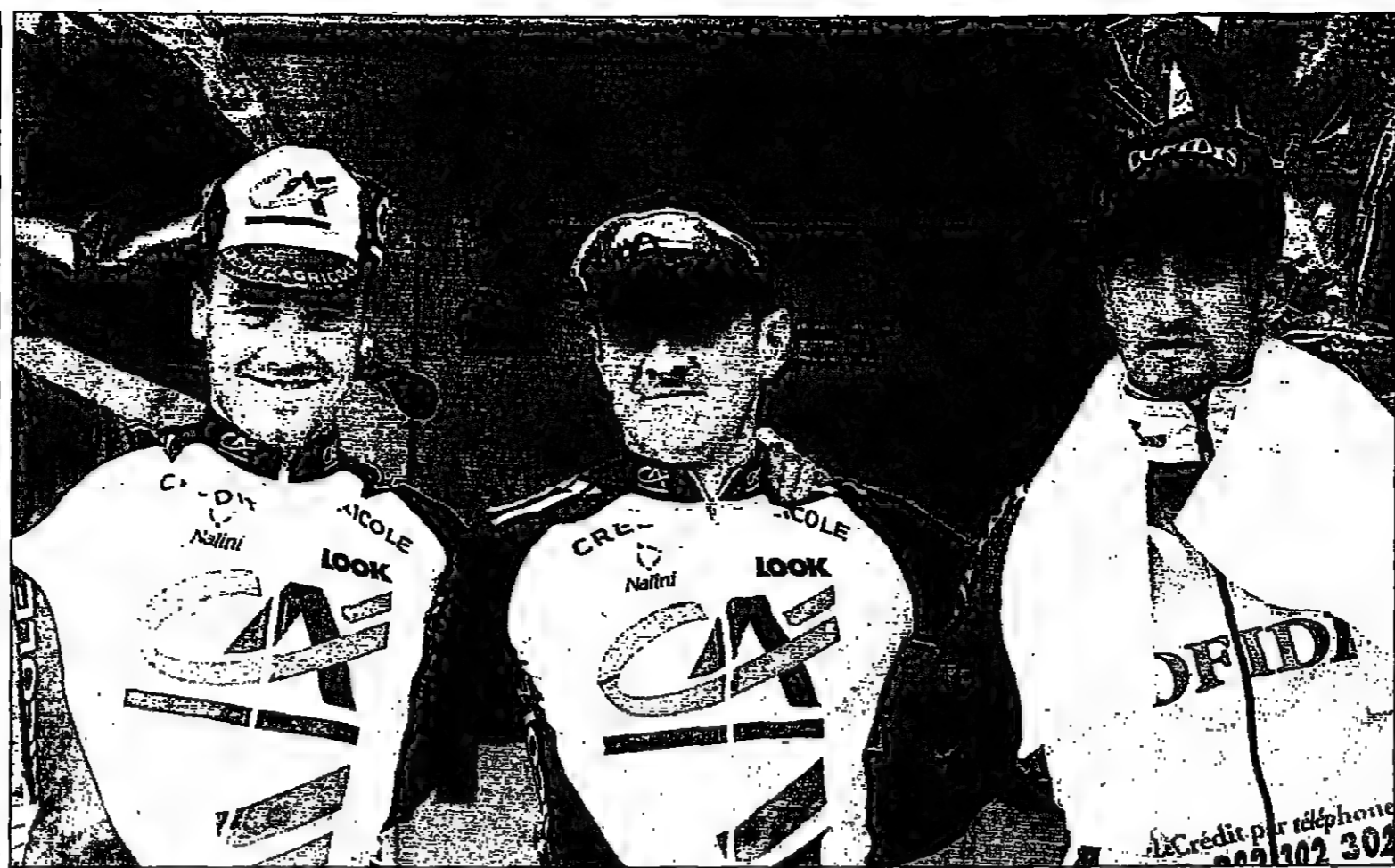
she was a junior and again before she teamed up with Van Harpen and has been one of Schnyder's close friends for the past ten years. Gugolz flew into Indian Wells on Tuesday and, just four practice sessions later, was fired on Thursday, a decision that left Schnyder in floods of tears. Then again, since the arrival of Harnacker, any connection with Schnyder's past has been severed and she appears tentative on court and distinctly edgy off it.

She must now play Alicia Molik, a qualifier from Australia, and, in her present state, that could prove tricky. Should she win, Hingis lies in wait for her. Hingis usually has an opinion on most things — just ask Amelie Mauresmo — but about this she is awfully quiet. "It's her private business and it's not something I can discuss," Hingis said. Private or not, the WTA Tour is keeping a watching brief on the whole affair and, should Harnacker do anything untoward, it is ready to act.

Elsewhere, it was business as usual. Monica Seles grunted to victory over Elena Likhovtseva 7-6, 6-2 and a Russian Anna Kournikova ran out of puff to lose 7-6, 1-6, 7-5 to Silvia Farina. It was Kournikova's forehead that sprayed errors around the court.

Today, the attention will fall on the men for the start of the Newsweek Champions Cup. The draw did British hopes few favours, placing Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski in the same quarter. They are scheduled to meet in the third round, with the winner due to meet Pete Sampras in the quarter-finals.

Henman is keen to renew their doubles partnership prior to the Davis Cup tie next month, but Rusedski, with a runner's-up spot to defend this week, has more on his mind and is delaying a decision.



Boardman is flanked by O'Grady, left, and Vandembroucke after winning the opening time-trial of the Paris-Nice. Photograph: Laurent Rebours

Boardman beats the clock again

Jeremy Whittle finds the British cyclist in pragmatic mood as the hills approach

CHRIS BOARDMAN earned his first significant win since the 1998 Tour de France prologue with victory in the opening time-trial of the week-long Paris-Nice stage race in Boulogne-Billancourt yesterday.

"I knew that this was primarily a flat course," Boardman, who now leads the race overall, said. "It was well suited to me, so victory here became my first objective of the year."

The Great Britain cyclist won by 2sec from Stuart O'Grady, of Australia, his team-mate, and by 6sec from Franck Vandembroucke, of Belgium, the defending champion. However, with several mountainous stages still to come as the race heads south to the Cote d'Azur, Boardman is being realistic.

"I've had only six days of racing this year, so I'd say that I have only an outside chance of still leading the race by the time we get down to the southern Alps," he said.

While Boardman added another time-trial win to his long list of victories against the clock, most attention focused on the return to French racing of Richard Virenque, the former leader of the Festina team, who was expelled from the Tour de France last year after a doping scandal.

Virenque, who has consistently protested his innocence since then, was set to retire from the sport last winter. Then, however, Polti, the Italian team, came in with an eleven-hour offer to rescue the popular Frenchman's faltering career and Virenque is now rebuilding his fitness with the 1999 Tour as his principal objective.

Despite the presence of Boardman, O'Grady and Virenque, the most likely con-

tenders for final victory are Vandembroucke and Lance Armstrong, a former cancer sufferer, from Texas.

Both riders have enjoyed mixed fortunes this spring. Vandembroucke has suffered the loss of a cousin in a car crash and is missing the services of Nico Mattan, his valued team-mate, who has been sidelined with a heart murmur. In spite of those shocks, Vandembroucke has already won three leading races this spring and seen his wife give birth to the couple's first child.

Armstrong had begun the season well, until he dislocated his shoulder while racing in Spain a fortnight ago. Despite that setback, he is determined to be competitive and is relishing the challenge of the key stage next Saturday, a

gruelling climb to the summit finish at the Alpine ski resort of Valberg.

In Spain, Marco Pantani, the Tour de France champion, has picked up where he left off last year, winning the five-day Tour of Murcia after an explosive lone attack on the hilly penultimate stage. Although Pantani is insisting that he may not defend his Tour de France title this summer, blaming the blandness of the 1999 Tour route and its lack of mountains for his reluctance, the diminutive Italian is widely expected to change his mind, once he has completed the Tour of Italy in June.

The immediate future of two other leading riders remains more deeply in doubt. Jan Ullrich, the 1997 Tour de France winner, is enduring an-

other of his characteristically wobbly periods, despite having trained hard all winter to avoid a repetition of his poor form of 1998, while French national Laurent Jalabert, of France, has yet to race on home turf this season.

Ullrich, 25, is already suffering from exhaustion after a bout of flu and a wisdom tooth operation, which is forcing him to delay his competitive return, while Jalabert and ONCE, his Spanish team, still embroiled in a tetchy battle with the French authorities after their walkout at the Tour last summer, seem to be reluctant to cross the French border.

The dust from the doping scandals of nine months ago has still to settle, but the organisers of Paris-Nice, hit by a fall in sponsorship after the revelations, are fervently hoping that the 66th Race to the Sun will arrive unscathed on the Mediterranean coast next weekend.

ROWING

Oxford make a rapid start

BY MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD and Cambridge Universities outclassed opposition in private races on the Tideway yesterday.

Oxford, competing against Tideway Scullers in two races between Putney and Hammer-smith, showed remarkable speed out of the blocks and the Scullers, albeit with two substitutes on board, were a length down in 46sec in the first contest.

Oxford then powered on, generally at 34 strokes a minute, to lead by five lengths at the mile and, although they then dropped the rate to 32, they held a similar margin at the finish.

The Scullers were livelier off the start in the second race and Oxford did not clear them until 1min 48sec, but the winning margin was again some five lengths at the mile and the finish.

The Cambridge opponents, a London RC lightweight crew, held on to the Light Blues for rather longer in their two rows. In the first, from Putney to Hammer-smith, Cambridge took three minutes to gain one length, then, in spite of warnings to Vian Sharif, their coxswain, opened a margin of four lengths by Hammer-smith. The second race saw Cambridge win, again with some warnings, by 2½ lengths.

Cambridge were timed unofficially as around 5sec faster than Oxford, but they kept their rate higher from the mile. Both crews have power, but Oxford, at the moment, are using it with more tidiness.

Isis, the Oxford reserve crew, were second at the Reading Head on Saturday behind Oxford Brookes, who retained their title.

The event was in doubt until six hours before the start, when the river authority removed flood warnings and 73 of the scheduled 102 crews were allowed to race.

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THE TIMES



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02 Michael Schumacher	08 Olivier Panis	13 HH Frenzen	19 Rubens Barrichello
03 Damon Hill	09 Giancarlo Fisichella	14 Alexander Wurz	20 Pedro Diniz
04 David Coulthard	10 Jean Alesi	15 Mika Salo	21 Pedro de la Rosa
05 Alessandro Zanardi	11 Johnny Herbert	16 Ricardo Zonta	22 Luca Badoer
06 Jacques Villeneuve		17 Marc Gené	*Replaces Norberto Fontana

CONSTRUCTORS

GROUP C		GROUP D	
23 McLaren	28 Williams	27 Benetton	29 Arrows
24 Ferrari	26 Jordan	28 Sauber	30 BAR
			31 Stewart
			32 Prost

24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0640 67 88 88

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Calls last about seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone (most telephones with * and # keys are Touch-tone). The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grand prix where bonus points apply. You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry. You can enter at any time until noon on Thursday, April 8, 1999 to qualify for the start of the Brazilian Grand Prix.

0640 calls cost 60p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 870 calls)

TO ENTER BY PHONE

Readers in the UK and Republic of Ireland must call 0640 67 88 88 (+44 870 901 4206 from RoI). Calls last about seven minutes and must be made by Touch-tone telephone. Follow the instructions and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grand prix where bonus points apply. Then give your team name (up to 15 characters) and details. You can enter until noon on Thursday, April 8, 1999 to qualify for the Brazilian Grand Prix.

TO ENTER BY POST

Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grand prix where bonus points apply. To qualify for the start of the Brazilian Grand Prix, postal entries must be received by first post on Wednesday, April 7, 1999.

Postcode: News Postcode Ltd, PO Box 455, Virginia Street, London E1 9BY

THE TIMES NATWEST FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

Complete this form with your credit-card details, or enclose a sterling cheque for £3 payable to Fantasy Formula One. (For readers resident outside the UK and Republic of Ireland the fee is £15.) Post it to: The Times NatWest Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU1 1ZZ. Your entry must be received by Wednesday, April 7, 1999 to qualify for the Brazilian GP

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GROUP C AND GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS 1st 2nd 3rd <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>			1. On which days do you usually buy The Times? Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Which other National Daily Newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week? 3. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)? 4. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

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Legal & General

THE FACTS

Market cap: £6.4 billion
Turnover: (year to September 30, 1998) £4.61 billion
Pre-tax profits: £834 million
Operating profit before exceptional: £722 million
Employees: 80,000-plus
Overview: Bass describes itself as an international hospitality and leisure group, focusing on hotels, leisure retailing and brand drinks.

THE BOARD

Sir Ian Prosser, chairman and chief executive since 1987, joined Bass in 1969, being appointed to the board in 1978 and made group managing director in 1984. Although his retention of the two top jobs does not accord with best corporate governance practice, the strength of the directors heading Bass's three divisions has tended to deflect any criticism. Sir Ian, 55, is a non-executive director of Lloyds TSB and is deputy chairman of BP Amoco.

The finance director is Richard North, who joined from Burton Group in 1994. He previously spent 23 years with Coopers & Lybrand. Mr North, 48, is a non-exec at Asda, Leeds Sporting and Felcor Lodging Trust.

The head of Bass Hotels & Resorts is Tom Oliver, 57, who joined the group in 1997 after spells with Federal Express, Thomas Cook, Hertz and American Airlines.

His counterpart at Bass Leisure Retail is Tim Clarke, 41, who was appointed to the board in 1996 and is a non-exec at Debenhams. The chief executive of Bass Breweries is Ian Napier, 49, who is also on Perry Group's board.

The director of personnel and company secretary is Spencer Witley, 56, a solicitor, who joined Bass in 1992.

Bass has five non-executive directors, led by the deputy chairman, Sir Michael Perry. He is chairman of Centrica and Dunlop Skazenger and a non-exec of Marks & Spencer. The others are: Sir Geoffrey Muscatelli, chief executive of Kingfisher; Roger Carr, chief executive of Williams; Robert Larsson, chairman of the US group Taulman Realty; and Sir Peter Middleton, acting chief executive of Barclays.

IT IS odd to think that just a year ago the City was growing increasingly impatient for Bass to spend some of the £2 billion-plus war chest it had amassed from offloading businesses such as Gala bingo, Coral, the bookmakers, and most of its tenanted pub estate.

But what we did not know then was that Sir Ian Prosser, the chairman and chief executive, was plotting a £1.8 billion move on Inter-Continental Hotels, which would provide the luxury brand that was missing from its existing Holiday Inn hotel business.

Even then, it took all Sir Ian's business and diplomatic skills to land the prize under the noses of Ladbroke, Patriot American Hospitality and Marriott. The victory over Marriott was especially pleasing because the gung-ho American group was so confident.

What Marriott had not appreciated were the niceties of dealing with Japanese companies. Despite its precarious financial position at the time, Saison Group, Inter-Continental's owner, was persuaded not just by the colour of Bass's money but by the way Sir Ian personally took control of the negotiations.

Aware of the painful loss of face that selling Inter-Continental would mean to Saison's bosses, he not only offered them an immediate solution to their financial straits but also drew up a master licence agreement for Saison to operate the Inter-Continental and Forum brands for the whole of Japan (although the future of the Forum brand is under review). This allowed it to retain an involvement with the company, thus mitigating some of the inevitable loss of face.

It is strongly rumoured that what finally clinched it for Bass was a private meeting between Sir Ian and one of the ultimate shareholders of the Saison Group — none other than Emperor Akihito himself.

The acquisition of Inter-Continental has given Bass a sense of completeness it has not had for many years. In a short space of time, mature businesses have been sold off and the money invested in faster-growing areas of the hospitality market. The feeling in the City is that Sir Ian has finally laid down the strategic platform necessary to take the 200-year-old company into the next century. His principal task now is to drive the enormous potential for organic growth his strategic moves have created, although the current economic climate means that this may take slightly longer to prove itself.



Sir Ian Prosser has laid down the strategic platform to take Bass into the next century. It has a spread of top-class brands in each of its chosen areas, including the luxury Inter-Continental Hotels, its bestselling Carling lager and retail outlets targeting subtly different segments of the drinking and eating-out market.

sive high street investment in such brands as All Bar One and Edward's, and put in place a much more cautious capital expenditure regime. It has also initiated a significant cost-cutting programme.

Despite the worsening trading climate, the tough action taken by the company — allied

to an appreciation that September's trading update was not that bad after all when set against its rivals — has prompted a partial recovery, and the shares now trade at 85p.

There is also a growing perception among analysts that Bass is gradually shifting itself from being an asset-backed

company to one based on brands, such that it is able to leverage the benefits of having a spread of top-class brands in each of its chosen areas. In hotels, for example, it covers virtually the entire market spectrum, from the budget Holiday Inn Express, through the core Holiday Inn brand to Crowne Plaza and, at the deluxe end of the market, Inter-Continental.

The same can be said of brewing, in which Carling — the UK's biggest-selling lager — is complemented by Tennent's, while its Bass ale sits alongside Caffrey's and Worthington. And for the younger market there is Hooper's Hooch. Similarly, the various retail brands range from community pubs, through Toby, Harvester, All Bar One, Edward's and Browns — all of which target subtly different segments of the drinking and eating-out market. An unheralded but potentially significant move was last month's acquisition of the Alex Group, a German

chain of bars akin to All Bar One and Edward's — described by Bass as "a toe in the water" in the continental market.

Analysts are also impressed by the balance that today's Bass has established between cash-generative businesses and those that require cash. The cash thrown off from brewing, for example, is rapidly reinvested in its hotel and managed pub businesses.

All this is a far cry from the company founded by William Bass in 1777 in Burton upon Trent. By 1800, under William's son, Michael, Bass ale was already widely exported, with more than half its production being shipped to the Baltic and the north German ports for sale in Russia, Finland and the German states. Such was its fame that Monet, the Impressionist painter, included two bottles of Bass in his celebrated *Bar aux Folies Bergères*. The bottle label incorporating the Bass red triangle — originally a shipping

mark — is Britain's oldest registered trade mark.

It is a source of personal regret to Sir Ian that Bass bitter, still marketed as "our finest ale" on the label, is suffering from the general decline of real ale. However, the company last year restructured its brewing operations and appears to be well-positioned to capitalise on the strength of its brands, led by Carling, which sells a staggering 3.3 million barrels a year.

More disappointingly, attempts to use the Czech Republic as the base for a push into Central and Eastern Europe have hit problems. Prague Breweries, in which Bass has a controlling stake, continues to suffer from the Czech recession and the Russian crisis. It has just reported its fourth loss-making year out of the past five and minority shareholders have complained of Bass's "unacceptable" management. On the plus side, Prague's Staropramen lager is being exported into the US, Italy and Spain.

Another area of controversy is Sir Ian's remuneration. Last year, his total pay package rose 97 per cent to £1.6 million thanks to performance-related bonuses worth £300,000 and options worth more than £700,000. However, Crisp Consulting considers Sir Ian to be underpaid for someone of his seniority and experience and says the non-executive directors are paid reasonably.

Integrity Works, meanwhile, says that Bass has room for improvement on ethical expression. It says that Bass has a concise statement giving business conduct guidance, but its ethics materials are silent on some areas that are challenging many international companies, such as human rights. Bass, it adds, needs to consider addressing such issues in its ethics statements.

DOMINIC WALSH

Ethical Expression!	6/10
Fast-food quotient!	10/10
Financial record	7/10
Share performance	6/10
Attitude to staff	7/10
Strength of brand	9/10
Innovation	8/10
Annual report	8/10
City star rating	7/10
Future prospects	8/10
Total	76/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fast-food quotient, in which fast foodchain pay practices score highest, is provided by Crisp Consulting.

CSFB may face disciplinary body over Archer trading

By CAROLINE MERRELL, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CREDIT SUISSE First Boston (CSFB) is expected to face a Swedish disciplinary committee tomorrow over the share dealings of James Archer, the 24-year-old son of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare.

The committee could fine CSFB or ban it from trading on the Swedish stock market. Mr Archer, along with David

Crisanti and Adrian Ezra, members of the "Flaming Ferraris" — named for their consumption of a £13-a-shot rum-based cocktail — were dismissed on Friday after a CSFB investigation into the group.

The Swedish authorities said last week that the deals done by Mr Archer in the pulp company Stora were al-

most certain to be referred to the disciplinary committee. If the disciplinary committee finds against CSFB, it will be the first time such an action has been brought by the Swedish authorities.

The investigation focuses on trades totalling around £700,000 carried out by Mr Archer at the end of last year.

New Covent Garden soup kitchen plan

By PAUL DURMAN

THE New Covent Garden Soup Company is planning to open a chain of 200 soup kitchens that is expected to add up to £25 million to the annual profits of S Daniels, its quoted owner.

The first of the new franchised soup bars, known simply as Soup, has just

opened in Hammersmith, West London. When completed in about five years, the full chain is expected to add £12 million to £15 million to Daniels' revenues.

The New Covent Garden Soup Company, which sells its chilled soups through leading supermarkets, is the largest and best-known of the acquisitions made by

Cyril Freedman and Michael Mills, who took control of Daniels about three years ago.

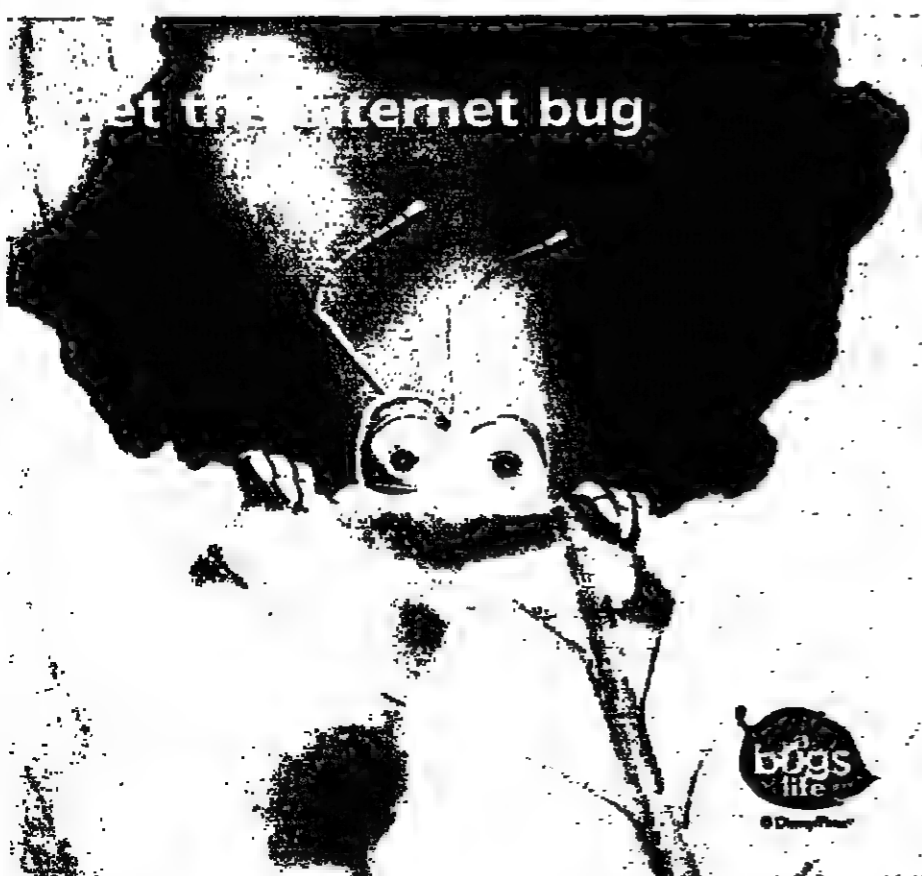
New Covent Garden lost market share last year in the face of increased own-label competition. Shares in Daniels have fallen heavily over the past nine months, which David Hallam, of Williams de Broc, blames

on unfavourable weather, recessionary fears and the poor performance of Marks & Spencer.

Daniels is spending about £1.3 million this year promoting New Covent Garden through television advertising. It is hoped the Soup bars will also support brand awareness.

In a note just published,

Mr Hallam argues that much of the chilled food sector, which includes Terranova Foods, Geest and Hazlewood Foods, is significantly undervalued. He recommends buying Daniels, which on the Williams de Broc forecast of £6.3 million of pre-tax profits this year, is trading on less than nine times earnings.



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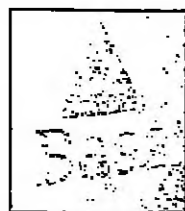


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PROFILE 44 Bass brands hold key to millennium

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

BUSINESS

BUDGETS 46
Roger Bootle
asks where
the fun is



Private hospitals urged to pass on £100m VAT windfall

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

MEDICAL insurers are threatening legal action to force private hospitals to pass on a £100 million VAT windfall they are enjoying as a result of a court victory against Customs and Excise.

Private hospitals began reclaiming VAT after winning a landmark legal battle which allowed them to recover from Customs the VAT paid on drugs and some surgical appliances used in treatment and operations.

BUPA, which controls one of the largest

network of private hospitals in the country, has already added almost £30 million to its balance sheet as a result of reclaimed VAT.

Now medical insurers who sent their customers to private hospitals believe that since it was they who paid the final bill for treatment, the VAT refund should be passed on to them.

Paul Saper, healthcare analyst with Laing & Buisson, estimated the total VAT windfall due to private hospitals could be as high as £100 million, of which a significant proportion might be due to medical insurers. Among the medical insurers cur-

rently negotiating for repayments are Prime Health, PPP healthcare and WPA.

Prime Health declined to say how much it had recovered so far but said it was "still actively pursuing a positive resolution" in negotiations with hospital networks. A spokeswoman for the company said: "Looking after our customers' interests and negotiating the keenest prices for them are of paramount importance and, as such, discussions are continuing with various hospital groups regarding previous incorrect charging of VAT in certain areas. Some monies have been recovered."

Julian Stainton, managing director of

WPA, said he believed that the company could be owed up to £4 million in VAT and interest payments from private hospitals. He said: "Some of the £30 million that BUPA has already received from Customs and Excise should have been passed on to us. The big hospital groups appear, however, to be extremely reluctant to co-operate. We are currently in negotiations but if we do not secure a proper settlement we will contemplate taking legal action to recover this money."

A spokesman for PPP healthcare said: "Where hospitals have recovered VAT we are working with them to identify and re-

cover the amount of money due to us as a medical insurance company."

BUPA, which is due to report its results next month, said the £30 million included in last year's results was "a one-off payment" which was unlikely to be repeated. The VAT refund related to the period between 1979 and 1996.

A spokesman for the company, which owns 36 private hospitals and has 1,900 hospital beds, said the reclaimed VAT was "ploughed back into the business to improve the facilities in our hospitals".

The ruling by the Court of Appeal two years ago was the culmination of a five-

year struggle. The case was brought in 1992 by a group of private health companies to contest a Customs and Excise ruling that private hospitals could not reclaim VAT on purchases of medical supplies. The issue hinged on whether pharmaceuticals and some surgical devices and prosthetics, such as pacemakers or hip replacements, should be regarded as zero-rated or exempt for VAT purposes.

A spokeswoman for Customs and Excise said after the ruling, which came into force early last year, that certain drugs, medicines and appliances used in hospitals were now zero-rated for VAT.

UB chief to call the tune at EMI

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

IN ONE of the most surprising boardroom shake-ups of recent years, Eric Nicol, chief executive of United Biscuits, the struggling McVities and KP group, is to succeed Sir Colin Southgate as executive chairman of EMI, the international music and recording group.

EMI, which has previously been criticised over boardroom benefits, is to pay Sir Colin £800,000 in lieu of the final year of his contract, although he is leaving as planned.

Mr Nicol has been a non-executive director of EMI since 1993. He will become chairman designate at the beginning of May and take over formally as chairman when Sir Colin retires at the end of July.

UB announced yesterday that 48-year-old Mr Nicol, who has been chief executive there since 1991, will be succeeded by Leslie Van Walle, a 43-year-old Frenchman, who is currently chief executive of the key McVities Group. Colin Short, UB's non-executive chairman, will also step down



Nicol: takes over in July

in May. He will be replaced by Sir Gordon Hourston, 64, a non-executive director, formerly of Boots the Chemist.

As part of the changes at EMI, Sir Dominic Cadbury, another non-executive director, will become joint deputy chairman and the senior non-executive from July, in succession to Sir Peter Walters.

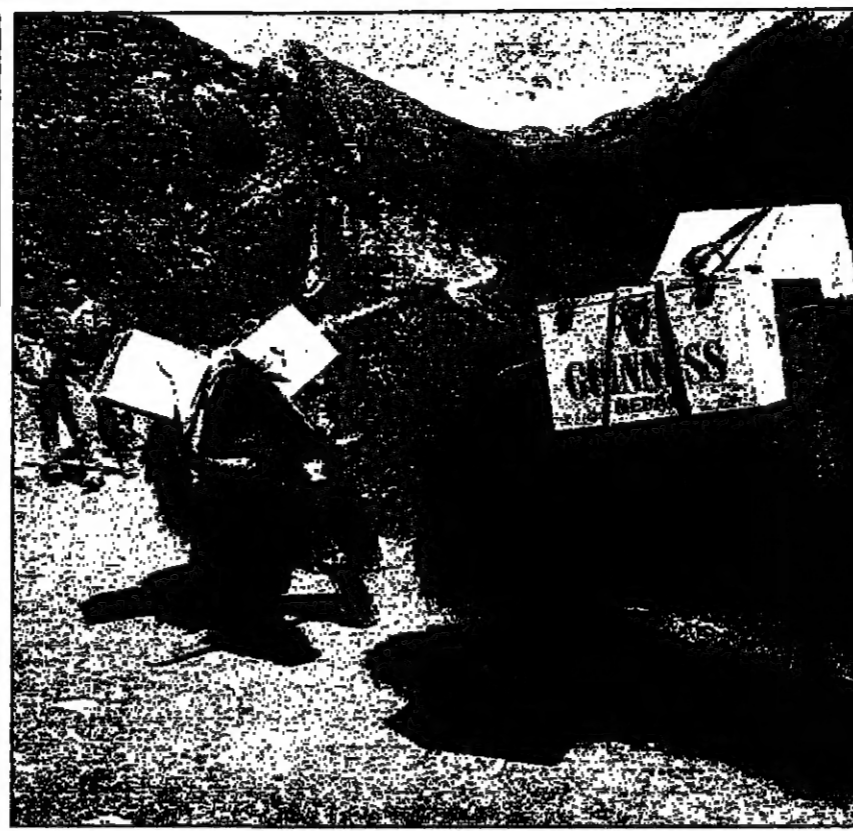
The global search for a successor to Sir Colin, who has been EMI chairman since 1989 and who is also chairman

of the Royal Opera House, has led to uncertainty at the music group. In choosing Mr Nicol the board has opted for general business skills rather than a music industry figure.

Ken Berry and Martin Bandier will remain chief executives of the two EMI businesses - Recorded Music and Publishing. They will report to Mr Nicol, as will Simon Duffy, joint deputy chairman and group finance director.

The company said: "In the light of the important roles of Ken Berry and Martin Bandier in the group's businesses, they [the board] have unanimously concluded that the appointment of an executive chairman who brings complementary skills and experience would provide the most effective structure for EMI."

Apart from knowing EMI, the UB chief executive had asked the Government for tax breaks on the cost of raising capital as part of a radical proposal to make public listings more attractive to smaller companies. The request, which is understood to be a key part of the Exchange's pre-Budget submission, is in response to growing fears about the flight of investment capital away from the



Guinness has found its way into the Himalayas with the announcement that the Mount Everest Brewery has begun brewing the black stuff. The brewery, based in Nepal, has started producing the famous

stout just in time for St Patrick's Day on March 17. Nepal is the 50th country in which Guinness is brewed. The deal between Guinness and the Mount Everest Brewery will see the Nepalese company

brew and distribute the stout at 130 bars in the capital city, Kathmandu. The beer will also be transported by yak to the world's highest inns, the "Tea Houses" serving tourists trekking in the Himalayas.

Plea for tax breaks on floats

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

THE London Stock Exchange has asked the Government for tax breaks on the cost of raising capital as part of a radical proposal to make public listings more attractive to smaller companies.

The Exchange believes tax relief on the costs of flotation would reduce a major deterrent to joining its ranks.

The Times understands that it wants the breaks made available to companies with market capitalisations of up to £250 million, although this figure is not firm. However, it has stopped short of asking that similar relief apply to the cost of fund-raising by companies already listed.

Costs, such as underwriting, accounting, legal and public relations fees, are estimated to consume an average of 10 per cent of the money raised in flotations.

This is thought to be significantly higher for many smaller companies, which raise smaller amounts and can do less of the work in-house than their larger counterparts.

The Government is understood to have given Stock Exchange officials no indication of

whether the proposal would be adopted in this week's Budget.

More than 60 per cent of UK companies have a market capitalisation of less than £100 million.

The collective size of the sector is also highlighted by the FTSE All-Share index, which accounts for 78 per cent of companies listed on the main market.

But these statistics are doing nothing to help the sector's plight.

BMW Rover pledge expected

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

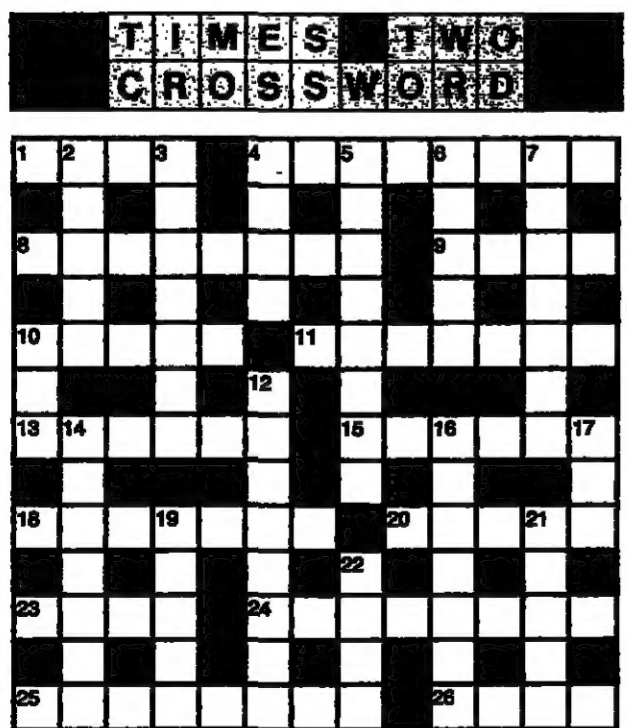
BMW is this week expected to commit itself to building a new small-to-medium size Rover car. But the German car company is not likely to follow the announcement with a pledge on the future of Longbridge, Rover's Birmingham plant, despite applying to the Government for aid last week.

It is thought that the future of Longbridge will be sealed next week at BMW's next supervisory board meeting.

BMW's belated application for about £200 million of state aid has raised hopes that the company is serious about maintaining Longbridge. Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, has made it clear that the Government is willing to give financial help to secure the survival of Longbridge - upon which 50,000 jobs in the West Midlands are dependent.

Launch aid for new manufacturing projects are gauged on the business plans of the new development and the cash input from the company. BMW is thought to have held extensive talks with Department of Trade and Industry officials so that its application did not fail or was forced to be modified substantially. Its bid is now likely to be granted quickly.

Although the application is a positive move for Longbridge, it does not mean the plant will survive in its present form or that the new model will be built there. BMW will unveil its plans for the new model at the Geneva Motor Show this week.



No 1659

ACROSS

- 1 The Ark builder (4)
- 4 Secondary job; to move away from influence (8)
- 8 Camouflage (8)
- 9 Single specimen of book; text for ad (4)
- 10 Pivoted bar (5)
- 11 An American marsupial (7)
- 13 Impostor; pretentious type (6)
- 15 (Taxes, troops) raised (6)
- 18 Thick, sticky (liquid) (7)
- 20 A benign growth; type of tiny sea creature (5)
- 23 Unrestrained, reckless (4)
- 24 Part of small intestine (8)
- 25 Unwillingly allow (8)
- 26 Ghana, Benin neighbour (4)

DOWN

- 2 Peace-symbol tree (5)
- 3 Healthy practices (7)
- 4 Rubbish bin; bound along (4)
- 5 Name-changing procedure (4,4)
- 6 (Technical) place; (math) curve (5)
- 7 God of the sea (7)
- 10 Edge device (9)
- 12 Unable to fly; based (8)
- 14 Cavity opening (7)
- 16 Using great force (7)
- 17 Decline; quick swim (3)
- 19 Apple drink (5)
- 21 Immature (5)
- 22 Half sleep (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1658

- ACROSS: 1 At all costs 8 Withers 9 Reach 10 Lark
11 Iolanthe 13 Impart 15 Secret 17 Gorgeous 18 Amen
21 Afoot 22 Squalid 23 Split hairs
DOWN: 2 Tutor 3 Lieu 4 Custom 5 Streamer 6 Shatter
7 Threatened 8 Walsingham 12 Oriental 14 Parious
16 Gusset 19 Molar 20 Tuba

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WTO to hear banana protest

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE WORLD Trade Organisation will meet in an emergency session today as Europe presses for condemnation of the United States over its banana row sanctions.

The meeting follows a series of top-level exchanges between Britain and the US, including a meeting between Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Madeleine Albright, his US opposite number, and a telephone call between Tony Blair and Bill Clinton.

Britain is furious about the sanctions against some European Union goods because of the effect on the cashmere industry.

All 134 members of the WTO will be present in Geneva today for the summit, which was called by the EU.

Although the organisation cannot instruct the US to end the sanctions, Europe hopes that its condemnation will force a climbdown.

The US is aggrieved that Europe favours Caribbean bananas over Latin American ones distributed by American companies.

Yesterday Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, became the latest Cabinet minister to attack the US's action. She told the BBC's *On the Record* programme that the US should abide by WTO rules.

Today Brian Wilson, the Trade Minister, will visit Scottish cashmere manufacturers and union representatives. About 2,500 jobs are at risk because of the sanctions.



Southgate: £800,000 payoff

Formula One Eurobond investors await green light

BY JASON NISSE

AS THE Formula One season got under way in Melbourne yesterday, the £2 billion (£1.24 billion) Eurobond being issued by Bernie Ecclestone's Formula One administration appears still to be stalled on the starting grid.

The launch of the bond was first announced in late September and a prospectus was sent to more than 150 prospective investors in early November. The issue of the bond followed an unsuccessful attempt to float Formula One.

There was a presentation by Mr Ecclestone and his investment bankers, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, a few

days later. A few days after that, Warburg Dillon Read and Merrill Lynch, two of the leading brokers of Eurobonds, announced that they had declined invitations to join the syndicate to market the bond.

Then came a rumour that the size had been reduced to about \$1.2 billion and that WestLB, the German bank, was leading a small group of investors who would buy the bond in its entirety. All Morgan Stanley would say was that it was continuing to market the bond. No deal with WestLB has materialised.

After a couple more months of no news and little apparent activity on the marketing of the bond, Morgan Stanley

said this weekend that it was still continuing to market the bond to potential investors.

Many of these potential investors expressed anxiety that most of the money being raised was going to a trust for the benefit of Mr Ecclestone's wife and children, about the interest rate offered on the bond and the security of the income streams securing the issue.

Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, is investigating Formula One's television contracts. Mr Ecclestone and Max Mosley, who runs the sport's administrative body, the FIA, claim the contracts are watertight, but few investors will put up money until after the investigation.

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